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VOLUME 63 · ISSUE 5 FEBRUARY 22, 1994

SHAKERITE

SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL · 15911 ALDERSYDE DRIVE · SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO 44120

NEWS BRIEFS

Goodman, Woods speak at MLK celebration

Seniors Joshua Goodman and Khadija Woods were featured speakers on the theme "our destinies are tied together" at the fifth annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at First Baptist Church on Jan. 27.

Goodman and Woods were selected by principal A. Jack Rumbaugh to represent to high school students the legacy of King's life and work.

Both speakers criticized the lack of integration among students. "[The cafeteria has] an invisible line that separates blacks and whites. It is desegregated but not truly integrated" Goodman said.

Woods agreed, and challenged the audience to look at themselves.

"Society makes itself secure with the fact that it tried to instill change. Our bodies may be integrated but our minds remain the same," Woods said.

Both students encouraged the audience to reach out to people in their everyday lives instead of using excuses.

"King's birthday should come to mean more than just a day when students sleep late and don't go to school, the numerous excuses don't warrant inaction. Goodman said.

The A Capella choirs also performed under the direction of Dr. Ronald Morgan and Dr. Richard Schneider.

-Dorrian Thornton

Black History Month celebrated with book fair

A book fair to celebrate Black History month was sponsored by Mac Scholars, the humanities department and the African American Cultural Association on Feb 15-16.

Every student was able to visit the fair during English classes and between the hours of 8 to 4 each day.

"We were looking for a different way to celebrate Black History Month," Reading specialist Michael Nash said.

The books for the fair were supplied by Barnes and Noble Bookstore and represented an array of topics, authors, and price ranges. There were educational books about culture and health, but also comic books and modern literature.

Raising money from the book fair was secondary. The most important thing was to entice students to purchase a book and appreciate the many books there to read, Nash said.

-Angelica Elliot

Students dance to Jammin' 92 DJ, not live band as expected

BY ALEX HAMERSTONE
Staff Reporter

MAY I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH? Freshman Tricia Kuendig asks guest artist George LaMond for his autograph at the Jammin' 92 dance held Feb. 12. Jammin '92 DJs Tony Toni Tone and LeeAnne Summers (above) spin tunes at the dance.
Shakerite photos by W. Michael Fleming

A dance sponsored by Jammin' 92, WJMO, the Interact Club and Youth Ending Hunger (YEH), the top prize in a food drive the radio station organized in December, was held in the north gym on Feb. 12.

WJMO offered the dance as a prize to the school that donated the most food to a hunger shelter. Shaker students donated more food than any of the other area high schools participating.

According to WJMO Program Director LeeAnne Summers, the food drive and dance were meant to improve WJMO's reputation as being a rude radio station.

"We all decided that we should do something semi-hip, but nice for the holiday season. We decided to do the food drive," Summers said.

There was some confusion among students as to what the dance was supposed to be. A brochure sent by WJMO to YEH adviser Chuck Spinner promised only a party sponsored by the radio station to the winning school,while announcements on the high school's PA system promised a concert with one of five mystery bands. These mystery bands were later disclosed on the school announcements as either Fab 7, The Stereo MCs, Snoop Doggy Dogg, Ace of Base or Tony Toni Toné.

Many students claim that a concert was promised during broadcasts on the radio station itself.

Sophomore Geoff LaMalfe, who claims to listen to WJMO frequently, said that he heard on the radio that a band would be coming.

Junior Raymond Fountain was also upset by the fact that no band came.

"I was kind of upset. I heard from all the kids in my class that Tony Toni Toné was coming," he said.

WJMO DJ Tony Toni Tone, whose name is extremely similar to the name of one of the promised music groups, was one of the DJs for the dance. This similarity may have been the cause of some of the confusion.

Summers claims that a concert was never promised on the radio, nor was a concert ever promised in any faxes sent to the high school. Summers said that when she first came to the high school on Dec. 17 to annouce that Shaker had won, she heard that some students thought Dr. Dre was coming. Summers claims that the concert rumor was a fabrication of the high school's PA crew.

WJMO is currently being sold, and monetary reasons may have forced the change of plans from a concert to a dance, according to Spinner.

Recording artist George LaMond appeared at the dance as a surprise "guest star." Summers said that she was somewhat upset by the reception LaMond received.

"I think some of [the students] were even mean to [LaMond]," Summers said . LaMond may have been received poorly because most of his hits were released during 1987 and 1988, Summers said, and students may not have been familiar with his work.

Some people said that it was selfish for students to expect so much. Spinner said that he had heard some students were upset that there was supposedly only one band coming, as they felt that they deserved to have more.

"I'm about teaching and collecting food, not about parties," said Spinner. He went on to say that it was expensive for WJMO to bring in the DJ and all of the electrical equipment and that high school students should appreciate what they earned.

Spinner does not plan to pursue the matter legally.

Despite the controversy over what kind of entertainment was supposed to be provided, the dance was a success. Students were able to bring more cans of food and exchange them for raffle tickets. The raffle was held at the end of the dance and prizes such as CDs and Subway coupons were awarded to the winners.

Many students such as freshman Erica Labovitz enjoyed the dance.

"I had a really good trime with all my friends." Labovitz said. "The music was good and overall it was a great night."

Geography of United States is theme for history day participants

Thirteen students from will represent the high school at the district competition for history day on March 26. The students prepared mandatory research papers, performance presentations and projects on the theme of geography for their history classes. The students are Juniors Joanna Epstein, Kate Fleming, Heather Hanson, Jenny Johnson, Adrea Lund, Shana McCormack, Sean Malone, Kara Moskowitz, Millie Nahm, Anne Reader, Emily Troia, Starla Wallick and Erin Yates.

NEWS BRIEFS

Ninth grade play gives more students opportunities to perform on stage

The ninth grade play, "You Can't Take it With You," will be performed Feb. 25 and 26 in the large auditorium.

The play will feature the talents of freshmen who auditioned in January, as well as upperclassmen members of the senior and junior ensembles, according to director, Mark Lynch.

Lynch is optimistic about the production.

"This is an unusual set of ninth graders, and they have adapted quite well," Lynch said.

According to Shaker theater program director, James Thornton, the ninth grade play originated to give freshman students the opportunity to perform.

Thornton said that he realized that students just entering the school could not compete with more experienced upperclassmen.

–Thomas McGill

JCWA competes in the Netherlands

The Junior Council on World Affairs sent 19 members to compete in a world-wide conference in The Hague, Netherlands, Jan. 20 to 30.

Over 2000 students from 175 schools were involved. The topic of the conference was compromise and concensus.

Although Shaker did not place, they competed well, club adviser Walter Slovikovski said.

"We had a chance to see how our skills compared to other schools in a top notch conference," Slovikovski said.

Club members enjoyed meeting other clubs from around the world.

"Meeting new people and learning how to relate to them was the best part of the conference for me," Freeborn said.

Some of the club's future goals are to regenerate member activity and involve more students, especially minorities, Slovikovski said..

JCWA will be competing at Cleveland State University and Kent State University.

–Louise Burton

Bartlett, Pickus retire after 35 years combined service to school district, community and students

BY RYAN GOHMANN AND BEN SCHEIN
Staff Reporters

After serving the Shaker school system for a combined 35 years, home economics teacher and counselor, Carol Bartlett, and alumni association chairman Nancy Pickus have retired after the first semester.

Bartlett taught in the system for 25 years and worked as a counselor in the guidance department. She was a home economics teacher at Woodbury Junior High for nine years and coordinated a program that helped 14 to15-year-olds who were doing poorly in school.

The program helped students to develop proper attitudes toward employment, appreciate education and get along with others, and improve life skills, according to Bartlett.

"I went into the education field to help young people identify and develop fundamental competencies that would be effective in their personal lives, Bartlett said.

Bartlett moved to the high school in 1985 as a vocational teacher and coordinator for two years and then served as home economics department head for six years.

Pickus graduated from the high school in 1952 and worked for a total of 10 years with the alumni association, beginning at the administration building and moving to the high school in 1987.

The idea for the alumni association came to her while she was working as a volunteer coordinator 10 years ago.

Pickus said she hopes that the alumni association has become a valid part of the school and that the alumni are more aware of what is happening.

" I hope I have started a legacy that will grow and become a vital source in the future. " Pickus said.

According to Pickus, it will be hard to leave the high school because she will really miss the staff and the students that she has worked with.

"The staff [at the high school] is outstanding and the students are great to be around..I'll miss the vitality of the school and being part of the big picture," Pickus said.

Results of math, citizenship proficiency tests contrast with reading, writing scores

BY JENNIE REIFF
Staff Reporter

Although scores on the reading and writing sections of ninth grade proficiency tests were better this year, scores on the math and citizenship portions of the test continued to decline.

This year, 59 percent of students passed the math portion on the first try, a decrease from 64 percent last year.

According to Assistant Principal Randall Yates, the poor math performance can be blamed in part on students not practicing math over the summer.

Yates also said that the tests sometimes require students to know information that is not stressed in teaching. He said that the high school's curriculum has focused on algebra because that is what colleges want students to know.

According to Yates, proficiency tests are the state's way of dictating what should be taught.

Similarly, Tim Mitchell, U.S. history teacher and former coordinator of testing at Cleveland Heights high school, said that how well a school does is often related to how much money a school spends.

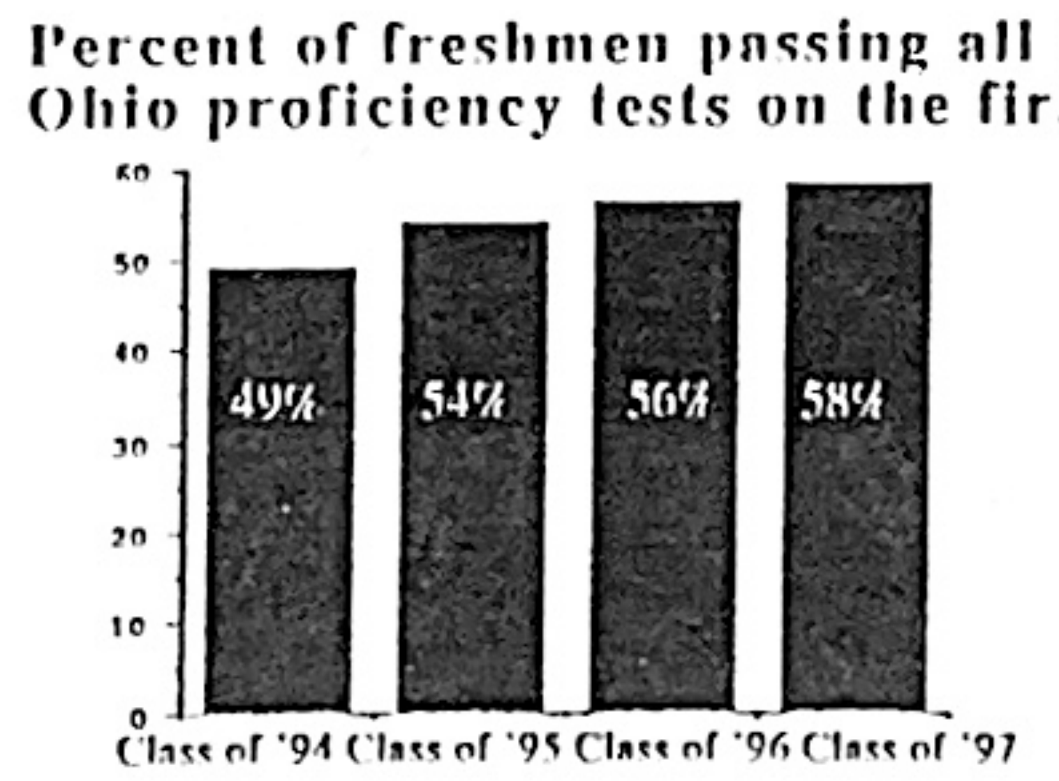
"Unless the state makes sure that every school district in Ohio is going to have equal funding, they can't fairly impose a single standard for every student," Mitchell said.

Dr. William Newby, high school curriculum coordinator said that he supports the tests because they challenge students.

"They have caused us to take extra effort to attend to the needs of the students who didn't pass," Newby said.

According to Newby, the students who have not yet passed will have another chance in March.

ON THE RISE...



African-American History trip to Washington, D.C. cancelled due to lack of interest from U.S. history classes

BY JESSICA WEEKS
Staff Reporter

The scheduled trip to Washington, D.C., for U.S. history classes was cancelled recently due to lack of student interest, according to social studies Department Head, Terry Pollack.

Planned to commemorate African American history month, the trip would have toured the nation's capital on Feb. 11, according to Pollack.

Pollack said that although the trip organizers had been planning to take seven busloads of students, only 45 students turned in the money and permission slips in time to attend.

Contrary to lack of student participation, U.S. history teachers were enthusiastic about the trip, according to Pollack.

"Every single teacher volunteered to go on the trip They all said they would gladly help the entire time," Pollack said.

Pollack said that the department will try to plan another trip again in 1995.

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HOME IS WHERE THE HOST IS. Ten high school students will host exchange students from the Takatori School in Japan from Feb. 24 through March 21. The hosts that volunteered were area studies students or previous area studies students who went to Japan last summer. The hosts are Senior Natalie Campbell; Juniors Lisa Carlini, Catherine Farmer, Kate Fleming, and Julia Rossi; Sophomores Jessica Bilsky, LInsey Croll, Megan Newell, Tory Nims and Terra Winston. Faculty hosts for Takatori teachers are math teacher Dennis Hogue and social studies teacher Jim Burry.

Shakerite photo by Courtney Masini

Students, faculty involved in Takatori exchange program for ninth straight year

BY STARLA WALLICK
Co-News Editor

Fourteen students and two teachers from Takatori School in Japan will arrive Feb. 24.

This is the ninth year of the exchange between Shaker and Beachwood High Schools and the Takatori school. The exchange started through the area studies class and the Council of International Education Exchange (CIEE), according to Terry Pollack, social studies department chair and co-teacher of area studies.

Guidance counselor Robert Annandale visited the exchange students from Takatori while he was on an unrelated trip to Japan during first semester.

"I was on a sabbatical leave, a contract between myself and the Shaker Heights Board of Education but the [Takatori]teachers were extremely helpful," Annadale said.

Pollack, who spent two weeks in Japan last fall studying their social studies system, said that the areastudies students not only learn about the Japenese lifestyle but also about themselves.

"They learn more of their own culture by reflecting on another culture and they learn that there are more similarities than differences between them," Pollack said.

Dana Noble, English teacher and co-teacher of area studies, said that an important part of the exchange is getting new points of view of the world.

"The most valuable part of the experience is the opportunity to learn about a culture that is so foreign," Noble said.

Junior Lisa Carlini has been to Japan and decided to share her experience with a Japanese student.

"I hosted [for the Takatori exchange] last year and I went to Japan in the summer. I really wanted to do it again," Carlini said.

Sophomore Jessica Bilsky said that Pollack got her interested in hosting.

"Mr. Pollack got me interested in [hosting]. The more I thought about it, the more I thought it would be a great experience," Bilsky said.

Ten of the exchange students are being hosted by high school students and four are being hosted by Beachwood students and a student from Laurel. Math teacher Dennis Hogue and history teacher Jim Burry are hosting the two teachers.

Black lawyer addresses classes about success

BY TOM TAYLOR
Staff Reporter

Cleveland lawyer Lawrence Elder, kicked off a schoolwide celebration of Black History Month as the keynote speaker at an assembly honoring African-American achievement Feb. 2.

In addition to founding his own law firm, Lawrence A. Elder and Associates Inc., Elder is the host and producer of his own television show, *The Lawrence Elder Show*. He also hosts the PBS-TV program, *Fabric*, and he is the business and legal guest-adviser for *Live On Five* and *Morning Exchange*.

Elder encouraged African-American students to focus on the positive aspects of their lives .

"By any standard, Black people as a whole are a lot better off in this country than in any point in history," Elder said.

African-Americans spend too much time blaming failure on prejudice and racism that is not always present at the expense of working to succeed, according to Elder.

"An aggressive, hard working, astute Black business person can sell to any customer who's out for a good deal, and that's just about everybody," Elder said in an article published in the Plain Dealer.

Elder also feels that color is not a factor for students getting into college and finding good jobs as long as they produce maximum results.

"Quality, value and prompt and attentive service. Provide these and no matter what color, you can if you want to. The only thing holding you back is yourself," Elder said.

Elder was invited to speak by humanities teacher Michael Nash.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK. Lisa Payne Jones began duties as the district registrar on Jan. 3. Jones was approved for the position by the board of education on Dec. 14. Her duty as the district registrar is primarily to enroll all new students to the school system. She is also responsible for providing demographic information about the district to various community organizations and monitoring familiy residences in and out of the system. Jones' future goals include making every family feel welcome in the district and streamlining the registration process. Jones graduated from the high school in 1976 .

photo courtesty of Shaker Heights School District

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Three lesser-known influential African Americans

J. Mercer Langston (1829-1897): abolitionist and congressman.

Walter Francis White (1893-1955): executive secretary, NAACP, 1930-1955.

Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955): first president, National Association of Colored Women; member of the District of Columbia Board of Education.

—*The Book of Lists, '90s Edition*

New administrators unnecessary use of district's funds

THE RITE IDEA

With a levy imminent next year, the school board is at a juncture where costs should be cut and unnecessary administration streamlined. Rather than do this, the school board has hired two new administrators, one at Lomond Elementary School and one who is currently at the middle school.

The middle school now has four principals, whose salaries total over $250,000. When middle school assistant principal Renee Paige took medical leave, Ovella McIntyre-Roulette was hired to replace Paige for a semester. When Paige returned the school board decided that the middle school needed another administrator. As is required by contract, the vacant position was posted, and several applicants applied, one of whom was McIntyre-Roulette. McIntyre-Roulette was hired for the job.

The middle school's new administrator is unnecessary as the middle school has approximately 800 students now, but in the past it has had close to 1000 students and only two administrators, and the school was able to function with no problem. The middle school was able to function just fine even a year ago with three administrators.

Lomond School, no larger than the other elementary schools and not having any greater amount of disciplinary action, also has no need for an additional administrator.

According to math teacher Thomas Patrick, the administrative costs could be used to hire anywhere from seven to nine new teachers, as new teachers with no classroom experience have a starting salary of $27,000. Teachers with some experience could be hired for only $3000 more.

Teachers are the ones in the classrooms in direct contact with the students every day, and thus they should be the ones receiving the benefits.

"It's ironic that the further away from the classroom someone works, the more money they receive," Patrick said.

With the economy in the state it is currently in, the school board should not be wasting tax money on unnecessary administrators. If the school board feels compelled to spend money, the least they could do is spend it on our teachers.

CHEERS & JEERS

Cheers to snow days during finals. Yeah, I spent that extra time studying.

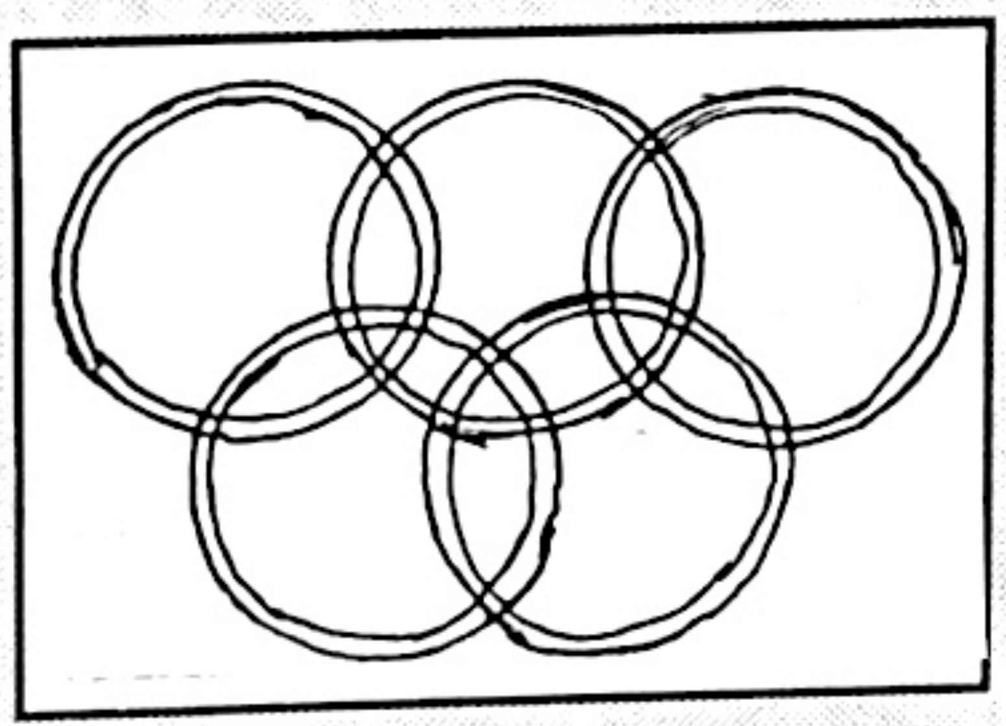
Jeers to Jammin' 92 for promising us a live band and then bringing that mystery "star" instead. Who was that guy, anyway?

Cheers to Duncan Kennedy, the American luge-person in the Olympics who wiped out...a definite tragedy in U.S. luging.

Jeers to math teacher Dennis Hogue for stuffing the ballot box and then hiding out from the W.H.E.W. pig. It's time to pucker up and face the porker.

Jeers to the seniors for hogging parking around the oval during proficiency testing.

Cheers to wasting time watching movies in English class.



Jeers to the seniors who count down every day until senior project. The rest of us don't want you around either.

Jeers to Olympic coverage on television, which is 20 percent sports and 80 percent commentary.

Cheers to useless sports such as the luge, curling, lumberjacking, and televised golf.

Cheers to librarian Kelly Jons and science teacher Amy Roedigger, who will be married on May 14.

College admissions leave seniors tense

BY REBECCA DAVIS
Editor-in-Chief

The last time I told someone I felt sorry for him, he didn't take it too well.

"I don't need your pity," he said.

"How pathetic–you can't even accept a little sympathy," I countered.

"Don't insult me. You're not one to judge," he whined.

"Stop whining," I yelled.

"Stop yelling," he whined.

Feelings can be real bummers sometimes, because they're always getting in the way of healthy relationships. Especially now that I have survived first semester of my senior year, which could plausibly be retitled "Hypersensitivity, Rejection, Ego and Exhaustion in a Bucket," I see how often words-usually meant to console or just initiate conversation–can be disastrous.

Unconvinced? Then ask a second-semester senior who applied early decision to college whether or not she got in. If she did, BINGO! Insta-friend! Her confidence is high, she loves to talk about her future home and she's flattered you thought to ask. But beware, because if she was rejected (DENIED!), then you might have encountered a victim of what experts call College Sucks Don't Ask Me About It I Don't Even Want to Hear About It Syndrome, also known as CSDAMAIIDEWTHAIS.

If you still doubt the existence of this insidious epidemic of frazzled nerves, psychotic delusions of failure and maniacal patterns of doubt, hope, nausea, fear, joy, pressure and whining, then check out the eating habits in the social room during those weeks when acceptance or rejection letters are due to arrive. No one is normal. Teenage guys–the ones usually stuffing their faces with every known high-caloric food–sit glumly consuming their fingernails. Meanwhile young women are going out for Burger King and buying candy bars from the vending machines.

It seems we're torn apart by the thought that someone we've never met, in an office we've *probably never* seen and in a school we only vaguely understand is looking at a couple of pieces of paper we mailed to them and deciding our future. Whether or not the mail carrier brings good news or garden fertilizer, we remain in awe of the process, of Admissions Officers with deity-status, power to open or close for us the gates of their school. And we remain on edge.

Of course everyone lately is also talking about our second-semester slump, the annual sleep-fest of the senior class once it (hopefully) finishes its last set of high school finals. But knowing the purgatory we lived through this year, can you blame us?

With that in mind, I should try to be understanding of my hypersensitive, whiny friend. He's coping with extreme pressure and uncertainty. Like most seniors, he wants some TLC, but at the same time wants to be left alone.

So maybe I wasn't as kind as I should have been, OK? Nobody's perfect. Give me a break already.

The Shakerite is a public forum published nine times yearly for and by the students of Shaker Heights High School.

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Black History Month provides deficient respect for heritage

BY DORRIAN THORNTON
Co-News Editor

Shakerite artwork by Wee Seing Ng and Dan Eisenberg

I don't have a doctor in front of my name and my initials certainly don't spell PhD, but it's that time of year again so roll out the red carpet and call me an expert.

I am a curiosity, I am an example, I am an instant commodity and yes, sometimes I am even a spokesperson. I am an African American during Black History Month.

For a number of years, the United State has been celebrating (if somewhat superficially) Black History Month as a special time set aside to honor the achievements of African Americans to this country. Now much has been said about the negative implications of setting aside just one month by African Americans and whites alike, so I won't touch that issue. But I've noticed that most white Americans seem to think that since they've set aside this "quality time" to hear "I have a dream" in stereo, African Americans should smile at their efforts and praise God for brotherhood. Or worse, every black person in America should have a complete record of our history tucked away into some corner of his or her brain, including the ship captain's name and home address.

Now I suppose if I were Japanese during a history unit on Japan or white during a unit on America, I might feel the same way, but I've always felt that African Americans have been singled out to speak for a nation of mutes, as if we all share the same voice which can be projected through the outlet of any one person questioned on any topic relevant to the community.

This is particularly true when we take certain classes that are mostly white or aspire to jobs that have traditionally been monopolized by white Americans. It's what I call the "only one" syndrome. Sure it happens to everyone when they're in the minority, but because race relations between blacks and whites in the U.S. have always been a major issue, we bear the brunt of a disproportionate amount of ignorance. If the issue of poverty in our community is raised we can expect to be treated like an ambassador from the hood, no matter where we come from. If the subject of poor performance on the proficiency tests comes up in class, we are asked to account for the intelligence of each other. In fact, its gotten so bad, that when we run out of answers, we have whites answering for us. I guess we're all mute.

Perhaps I should spell it out for you. My name is D-O-R-R-I-A-N T-H-O-R-N-T-O-N. Not Whoopi Goldberg. Not Anita Hill. Not Louis Farrakhan. Not Jesse Jackson. I may have opinions about all of these people, but I don't put words in their mouths nor they in mine.

Black History Month is a time for discovery. Beyond the built in heroes, Martin and Malcolm have inspired many, but they aren't the only voices to be heard. Beyond the stereotypes of black achievement, there is more to success in our community than Michael Jordan or Oprah Winfrey. Beyond American boundaries, there are black people all over the world with a history even further back than the Mayflower. Honest!

But most importantly, Black History Month is a stated chance, an open door for other Americans to get to know not only our history, but us as well. To avoid trivializing our history into a song or speech. To remember that we come from as many backgrounds and perspectives as any other group with as many different voices. To strive to make African American history an extension of their own. It might help us all to just speak for ourselves.

Media treatment of Bobbits sensationalized event

BY JONATHAN HARRIS
Co-Centerpiece Editor

You are sitting at the breakfast table about to dig into a hearty bowl of Raisin Bran. Then you hear the news of the morning spewing from the T.V.

"Lorena Bobbit, the woman who cut off her huband's penis..."

Gagging on the Raisin Bran, get up and change the station, only to sit back down and hear:

"John Bobbitt took his famous reattached penis to court today..."

Will it ever end? The constant "penis" - this and "cut off his genitalia" ... it's enough to send us men walking in public with our legs crossed, protecting our fountain of manhood.

Not only that, but why is the media glorifying this disgusting and stupid incident? They must think that a reference to the man's most sensitive organ will attract viewers. So every day, news hour after news hour, we hear about this grotesque incident, usually while we are eating.

Another thing that angers me about the extended air time this incident receives is that there are so many other important things happening in the world that should receive attention. Do many people know who the new Secretary of Defense is going to be? Do many people know what is going on in the former Yugoslavia? Or that the leader of the Russian party that controls the government is a Nazi? Probably not, because some woman cutting off her hubbies' baloney pony is more important.

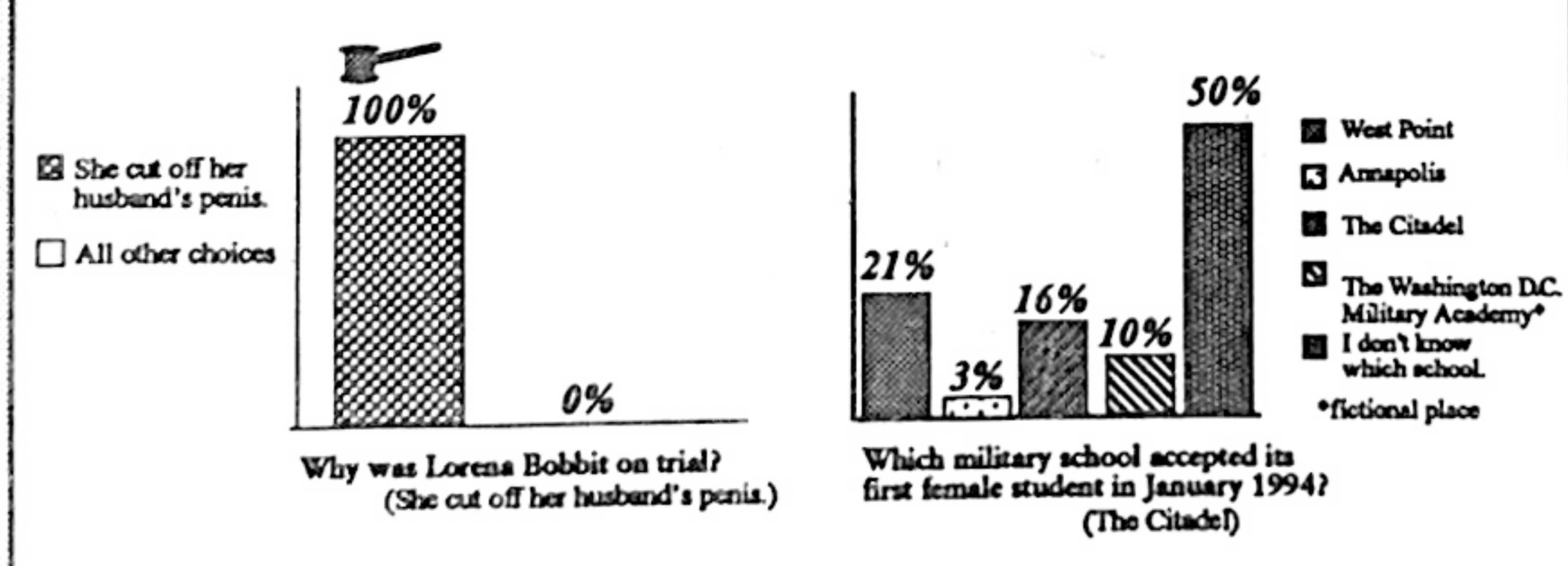
I'm also sick of the cartoons and jokes about the incident, for it is quite insensitive. How many jokes do you hear about rape? None. You are probably thinking, "It's not the same," but it is, or at least the principle of the whole thing is. The mutilation (or violation) of someone else's private property is in the same category, no matter if it is rape or Lorena's aforementioned action.

And now a lot of feminists think that Lorena is a hero. She did it, and the judge let her get away with it, which means it is all right to do now, right? A word to all those feminists that support Lorena's action: you are no better than the thugs that commit rapes and other such actions to women. Two wrongs do not make a right.

However, we can learn many things from this incident. Next time Lorena, just kill him. Next time, news-people, just forget about it. And to my fellow men, SLEEP ON YOUR STOMACHS!

Making mountains out of molehills:

A comparison of sensationalism in sex cases



Shakerite survey of approxmately 250 students

Girls sports place second after boys

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

After 11 seasons, I am confident that the facilities, coaches, and support offered at Shaker, for both male and female athletics, are unparalleled. However, I recently realized that Shaker sports are not immune to inequalities.

This year the boys lacrosse team will be unable to use Woodbury's field. The athletic department's first reaction was to move the boys team to Boulevard, which had been the girls field for two years now. The girls were to be moved to the front field, a completely inadequete field for the boundary-free game of womens lacrosse. As Dr. Rumbaugh agreed, to move the girls off our field seems completely unreasonable.

Fortunately, after discussion, a reasonable solution has been reached. Our home games and select practices will be held on the football field.

Since this issue developed, my eyes have been opened to many similar subtle inequalities. Girls soccer could only play their games at Woodbury when the boys didn't need the soccer field. Girls softball travels to practice while boys baseball ahs a beautiful new field here at the high school. The boys locker room has been recently renovated, and the girls is still growing mold.

The athletic department is amenable, and solutions can be reached. So remember Shaker athletes, especially if you are female, stay on your toes.

Lindsay MacDonald, senior

Questions not encouraged in school courses

BY EMILY TROIA
Feature Editor

"Why do I have a butt?"

A pretty silly question, we might think. A woman I work with had her son earnestly pose this question to her, and she had to try to answer it. Little kids ask the most bizarre questions.

Then again, we teach children to explore and question. This valuable quality taught in pre-school and elementary school is then stamped out of students in higher grades.

"You don't need to know that."

"Don't worry about why."

"Because it's in your book."

"That's not going to be on the test."

These are the answers questioning minds get once they enter high school. Students are no longer able to expand their own minds by exploring, but have their creativity and curiosity looked down upon as "not sticking to the topic."

I have always considered myself an inquisitive individual who is not afraid to ask questions. Recently, I was proven wrong and startled by the realizaton.

I work in a scientific laboratory after school and was always told to ask lots of questions. I thought I was asking questions left and right.

I had it pointed out to me, however, that I was not asking the vast number of questions I had thought I was. I had been asking where things went and what the chemicals I was *mixing did, completely ignoring all the experiments around me.*

I asked questions about only the material set in front of me and did not stop to explore the world around me.

I think this is a subtle problem many of us will face and may not notice as we move into different areas of study that need minds that push beyond tasks set in front of them.

Teachers only have so much time to teach a great deal of material, so they do not always have time to go off on tangents with one or two students.

Instead of pushing aside questions that do not directly pertain, however, teachers should encourage the students interest and ask to talk about it a moment before or after class.

Teachers should also try to lecture less and allow students to figure out concepts on their own through experimentation and discussion.

Experiments should not all be a set of instructions to follow, but teachers should give the students a problem and have to figure out how to get from point A to point B on their own.

Discussions should not all be teacher-dominated and the questions broader so that students may come to more varied conclusions instead of only one right idea.

Most teachers are guilty of discouraging curiosity to one degree or another and should look at their methods of teaching for creativity trampling traits.

Students are not guilt free either. We must be aware of opportunities to ask real questions and explore. We must also try to pursue our questions after class or with another teacher.

Why do we have a butt, anyway?

January finals wackiest in Shaker history

BY KEVIN COLE
Co-Sports Editor

Shakerite artwork by Wee Seing Ng

If there are two things Shaker Heights High School is known for, it's the fact that snow days come roughly as often as the Olympics, and that when it comes to finals, the administration is about as easy-going as Saddam Hussein. It is for these two reasons that the finals of January 1994 will go down in the annals of history as the wackiest this school has even seen.

Friday, Jan. 13: A standard finals day. Math followed by English, and students go home for what was expected to be a three-day weekend of mass cramming.

Monday, Jan. 16: High school students fall into two categories tonight–those asleep at 9:30 p.m. in order to be well rested for tomorrow's finals, and those awake at 2 a.m., trying to remember whether atomic radii increases or decreases when going across a period.

Tuesday, Jan. 17: Students all over the city wake up at the normal time and get ready for the finals. We hear the news anchor reading the names of what seems like a lot of schools, but we know better. There's a better chance of the library adopting a "talk all you want" policy than there is of Shaker schools being closed because it's a little nippy. You arrive at school and are impressed with yourself for being so early. But wait a minute. Isn't it a little unusual to have the first parking spot on the oval at 8:25? Come to think of it, aren't there usually cars parked in the teachers parking lot before finals? And isn't it strange that as you walk towards the building, a custodian is knocking through his office window and telling you to go home? And that's when the unbelievable truth sets in. Finals at Shaker Heights High School have been postponed. And you are the only idiot who has come to school.

The rest of the day is filled with uncertainty. Do you study, or do you tell yourself that God wanted this to be a vacation for you? Do you go out at night, and hope that school is cancelled for one more day (a concept so bewildering most people cannot comprehend it), or do you get a good night sleep for your finals tomorrow?

Unfortunately, this decision cannot be made until approximately four hours after every other school this side of the Mississippi River has already reported to the three major channels that they will close tomorrow. And then, you see it. Shaker Heights Schools...closed. Were you imagining things? Can it be? Two days in a row of no school? This is the equivalent of the Bengals winning the Super Bowl two years in a row: it's too incredible to be believed.

Wednesday, Jan. 19: Another day, more decisions. You've heard that some people are going into school today to get their finals over with. Bad idea, you decide. It's important for your teacher to be there to answer any questions you have. And besides, you can't go to school on a snow day. It's almost an unwritten law.

It turns out to be a huge mistake, as your friends tell you stories of taking finals with no proctors, finals becoming 'group projects,' and reminding you that they are all done, while you've got six hours of school tomorrow. How can the same administration that puts teacher's finals in Fort Knox allow this to happen?

You also decide to take a another day off from studying.

Thursday, Jan. 20: It's 8 a.m., and you're frantically searching the channels. Padua, no school. Parma, no school. Shaker's got to be next. Solon no school. Wait a minute, doesn't "h" come before "o"? We have school? That's when studying starts to become an appealing idea again. Unfortunately, your first final starts in 15 minutes.

It's a regular day of finals, interrupted only by the first ever fire alarm in Shaker finals history. Something about a water main break. Who cares? It's not serious enough for the building to be evacuated for a week, which was the only thing going through your mind when the alarm went off.

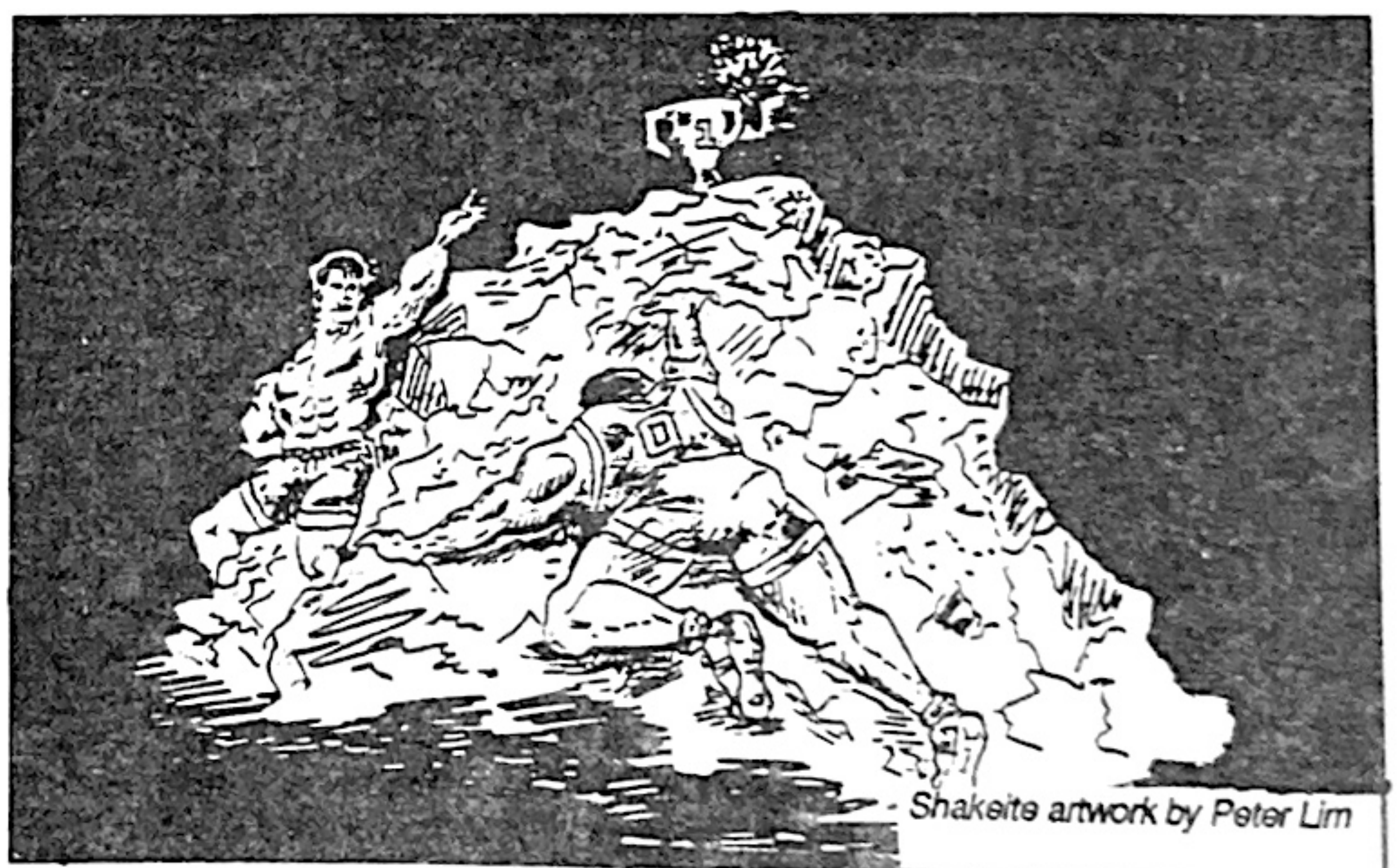
The only good news of the day came when you found out there would be no *school on Monday.*

***Friday, Jan. 21**: The strangest finals* in high school history end a week after they started. Who knows what will happen next semester.

High school seems competition for college acceptance

PERSPECTIVE

BY JENNY JOHNSON
Opinion Editor



- Shakeite artwork by Peter Lim

We can all learn something from Tonya Harding. Namely, a little competition is a good thing. Too much competition, however, leaves a person in trouble with the law and with a man named "Galluli" as an enemy. And unlike Tonya Harding, if we lose the competition for college acceptance, we can't slap the school with a multi-million-dollar law suit.

The comptetion I am referring to is none that will win anyone a medal or an endorsement from Pepsi, but it is the one that most high school students are pushed into by parents or by themselves, and it is one that plagues students' high school careers.

Much of the time high school is like a race. It's a race against time to see who can accumulate the most good grades, the most activities and the most accomplishments. It's a constant struggle to stay in a good enough class position so as to impress the college of one's choice. It's a consant competition, not only against classmates, but also against people one doesn't know now and will probably never know for a few spaces in a freshman class in an unfamiliar place.

I know many people, including myself, who worry about living up to the standards necessary to get a certain scholarship or to get admitted to a certain college. Whether it be sports or academics or activites, it's always the same. They figure, if I don't keep my grades or my shape up now, then I won't get into the college I want to, then I won't be able to get the job that I want, then I'll die a miserable failure. And all because of that one C in chemistry which was a 79.4 percent and should have been a B, but the teacher was unfair and didn't round up.

"What'd ya get? What'd ya get?" The common question after every semester report card. Translation: Did I do as well as you did? How do I compare with you? How do my grades look in comparison to yours to an admissions officer?

Whoever said that high school was the most carefree time of a person's life was sadly mistaken. High school has become one long process of getting into college, a process that is not easy or necessarily fun, and it is definitely not carefree. Semester grades, SATs, Achievement Tests, applications and essays are all reminders that competition is a force to be reckoned with.

The problem is, unless working under the golden arches is your life goal, there is no avoiding the competition for college acceptance. The important thing to remember, however, is that being happy and having fun now is just as important as getting into college later. Always living for the future leaves no time to be satisfied with life in the present.

If the competition really gets to you, I'm sure Tonya might have a few tips. Just don't mention the word "knee caps."

Celebrating black history: Films and books which bring the past alive

FILMS

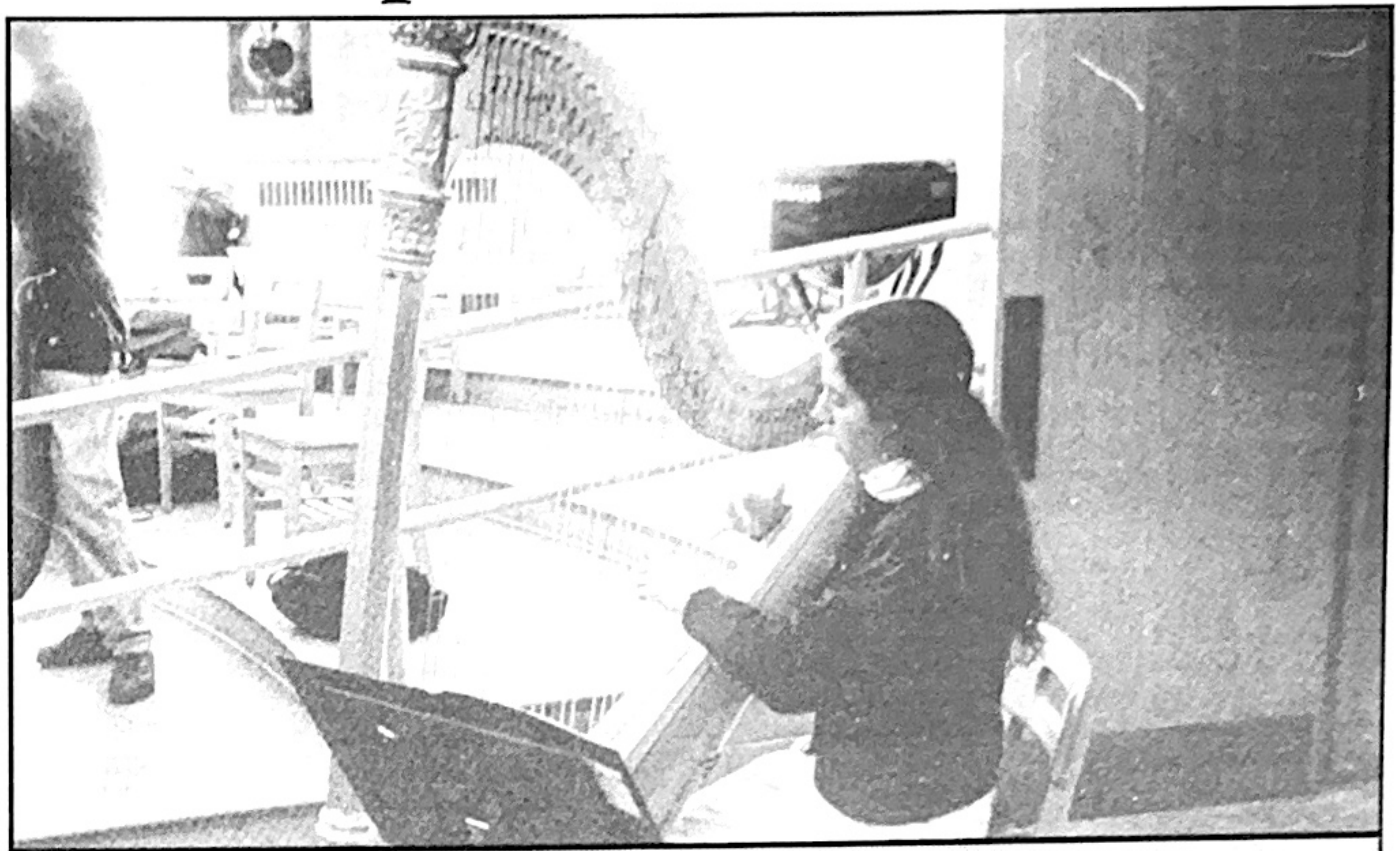
- *Roots*
- *Malcolm X*
- *Posse*
- *Lean on Me*
- *Glory*
- *Mississippi Burning*
- *Eyes on the Prize*
- *Cry Freedom*

BOOKS

- *Before the Mayflower*- Lerone Bennet Jr.
- *The Fire Next Time*- James Baldwin
- *I Dream a World: Black Women Who Changed America*- Brian Lanker

All strings attached: Harpist takes center stage

BY AMY LIPTON
Research & Exchange Manager



SHE'S GOT A HANDFUL. Senior Rachel Schermer practices the first movement of "The Debussy Dances." She recently attended a national arts competition and will major in music at Oberlin College next year.

Shakerite photo by Courtney Masini

The rich sounds of Bach resonate throughout the auditorium. Suddenly the angelic sound of a harp comes from the depths of the auditorium as senior Rachel Schermer plays her solo.

Schermer not only performs solos for many of the orchestra concerts at the high school, but also arranges much of the music that she plays with the orchestra.

Schermer has always taken the initiative when it comes to the harp.

"In fourth grade I heard a harp on a tape, and I asked my mom if I could play," she said. "I wanted to play the harp. A lot of people play because their mother wants them to play, or because they think it is a beautiful instrument."

The harp has a beautiful appearance to Schermer, and she says that it has a unique sound to match.

"The harp is different from other instruments. It is everything rolled up into one. It has a unique angelic, soothing tone. Everything on the harp sounds beautiful," Schermer said.

Schermer has not only been recognized within the school for her talents, but has also won national competitions.

From Jan. 11-16, Schermer was in Miami, Florida, as a winner of The ARTS Recognition and Talent Search.

Approximately 6,500 students across the country tried out for the contest. One hundred-nine people, representing all the arts, were selected to go to Miami to audition for various cash awards. Schermer was one of only 20 musicians selected.

While in Miami, Schermer had an audition and took part in various musical activities. She was also able to take lessons from the judges.

"I had a really good time. I learned a lot from the teachers," she said.

Here at home, Schermer takes young artist classes in the afternoons at The Cleveland Institute of Music.

"I take lessons from Alice Chalifoux once a week," Schermer said. "She is probably the foremost harp teacher in the world."

In addition to three to four hours of practice a day and being in the orchestra at school, Schermer is also a member of two other orchestras – the Shaker Symphonic Orchestra and the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra. She meets once a week with the Youth Orchestra and works with the Shaker Symphonic Orchestra when they need her.

Schermer continues with her harp studies over the summer and attends various arts camps.

"I went to Interlochen Arts Camp for three summers. This past summer I went to the Salzedo Harp Colony in Camden, Maine," she said.

At the Salzedo Harp Colony, Schermer lived with different families in Camden while taking lessons during the week. She hopes to continue with the same program next summer.

To transport her harp, Schermer has a special harp cart. She said that although transportation is difficult, she has gotten used to it. When she meets with other harpists the topic of easier transportation methods often comes up.

Orchestra director Tracey Powers said that Schermer has not only wonderful talent, but is a dedicated and hard working musician.

"She is dedicated to pursuing music to the highest level in a constant fashion. Rachel has the desire to play well at all times. This is unusual for a high school student," Powers said.

Schermer will be entering Oberlin College next fall. Naturally, she will be majoring in music.

Beavis and Butthead

The Beavis and Butthead Experience

Beavis and Butthead have no place in a country that has just recently begun to focus on the barriers of sexual and racial discrimination. However, don't let this stop you from buying their disc, because Beavis and Butthead are not the ones doing the singing.

The *Beavis and Butthead Experience* includes 10 "cool" songs by some of the hottest rap, rock, alternative and metal bands performing today; and two songs by Beavis and Butthead you'll probably wind up skipping over. This is a great disc if you aren't familiar with very many bands, even if you don't like Beavis and Butthead, because the songs are all good representations of the groups that perform them.

- The disc starts out with a track by Nirvana called "I Hate Myself and Want To Die," which sounds like most Nirvana songs, angry, but rhythmic enough to hum.
- The second song features Beavis and Butthead hanging out with the heavy metal band Anthrax on a tour bus, until they get kicked off. Anthrax then performs an impressive cover of a Beastie Boys song, "Looking Down The Barrel Of A Gun."
- Run DMC contributes to the album by performing "Bounce," a rap song with a phat beat.
- The Red Hot Chili Peppers follow with a great cover of the Iggy Pop song "Search and Destroy," which seems a bit harder edged than anything else in their repertoire.
- The disc rounds out with the Sonny and Cher classic, "I Got You Babe." If you thought your parents would buy you the disc because it had a song that they once grooved to, think again. Beavis and Butthead ruin the song by talking and singing. However, an album with this many good songs is rare, so go buy it before Tipper Gore and friends decide to ban it.

-Miles Berger

● ● ● (Out of four)

Smokin Suckas wit Logic

Playin' Foolz

Imagine mixing George Clinton's funk, gangsta rap's controversial lyrics, Pearl Jam's guitar driven rock and the repeating rhythms of Digable Planets and you've got the unique sound of Smokin Suckas wit Logic (SSL).

SSL is a rap band, but it is much more than just a drum machine and a couple singers. The band uses electronic instruments as well as real instruments like guitar, bass and drums (yes, a rap band that uses a real drum set) to create a sound unlike anything else.

The six man band has such a unique sound because its members were trained in different genres. Guitarist D-Smooth was influenced by Jimi Hendrix and Eddie Van Halen, while drummer Curtis Watts learned his skills from his cousins Kwame and Paradise of the rap group X-Clan. SSL is also one of hip-hop's few multi-racial bands.

Despite all this diversity, racially and musically, all of the tracks on this album sound similar. Most of the songs start out with a drum beat, and the music doesn't really kick in until half a minute has gone by.

However, the band shows promise. With more exposure, songs like "Cuz I'm Like Dat," and "Jah Sent," could go to the top of the charts. Other songs, such as "Positive Vibez," contain enough "bass in your face" that if anyone with an oversized car stereo gets a copy of them, the rest of us will be deaf for a long time to come.

SSL has the talent to become one of the best rap bands in the country, on par with groups like Cypress Hill. Some of the tracks, however, could use a little more energy. With some increased speed, this already good album would become great. If you are a rap, funk or crossover fan, you will enjoy this album.

-Miles Berger

● ● ◐ (Out of four)

THE Grapevine

Concerts

The Coliseum

■ Rod Stewart	March 2
■ Billy Joel	March 17
■ The Grateful Dead	March 20-21

For tickets call Ticketmaster at 241-5555

The Palace Theatre

■ Peter, Paul and Mary	March 3
■ B.B. King	April 3
■ Jerry Seinfeld	June 24-25

For tickets call Advantix at 241-6000

Other Concerts and Events

- Urge Overkill at the Odeon Concert Club
  March 5 (Ticketmaster)
- The World's Toughest Rodeo at the Coliseum
  March 11-13 (Ticketmaster)
- UB40 at the University of Akron
  March 13 (Advantix)
- Pearl Jam at the CSU Convocation Center
  March 22 (SOLD OUT)

School events

- *You Can't Take it with You* (ninth grade play)
  Feb. 25 and 26 8 p.m.
- High School Mixer
  March 12 8:30-11:30 p.m.

CENTERPIECE
February 22, 1994
SHAKERITE · PAGES 8-9

Prejudiced speaker hits local campus

BY JOSHUA GOODMAN
Co-Arts and Entertainment Editor

The ovens of death have grown cold. Fewer and fewer survivors live to tell their stories. Meanwhile, with the passage of time, the Holocaust is further reduced to a fading memory to be preserved only in the history books.

Bradley Smith would like to reduce the Holocaust even further. Smith, a California builder, is a member of the Committee on Open Debate. Although a seemingly honorable organization, the Committee's efforts to deny the Holocaust are anything but noble.

In universities across the country, Smith and his Committee, under the protection of the first amendment, have taken out full page advertisements which deny the validity of the Holocaust. Rather than question the fact that Jews were murdered during the World War II, Smith rejects the notion that there was ever a planned, systematic attempt by the Nazi government to kill Jews. His argument is a persuasive one, relying on half-truths, testimony from crony historians and most importantly benefitting from society's ignorance about the Holocaust.

In 1993, 13 universities, including Ohio State and Wright State University, published the Smith ad. The university tradition of fostering open debate on a wide variety of issues has proven all too warm a welcoming mat for revisionists like Smith.

But Holocaust denial is but one component of a larger trend of anti-semitism on college campuses. According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), an organization committed to fighting anti-semitism, incidents of anti-semitism on college campuses have increased for the sixth straight year. This past year, 122 anti-semitic incidents were reported at 81 campuses. The incidents range from seemingly harmless name calling to acts of vandalism, assault and personal harassment.

In Cleveland, anti-semitic literature and Holocaust denial materials were distributed at Cleveland State University and a wall at Case Western Reserve University was found graffitied with swastikas accompanied by the message "Kill the Jews."

According to Cliff Savren, Northern Ohio regional director for the ADL, anti-semitism on college campuses must be viewed in relation to the rise of anti-semitism everywhere across the country.

"Anti-semitism on campuses simply reflect the rise of it in the country as a whole," Savren said.

In addition, Savren believes that a student's years at college tend toinvolve alot of soul searching. This combination of soul searching and insecurity can bring out dangerous attitudes in people with already existing racist tendancies.

Universities have also been supportive of bringing anti-semitic speakers to campus. Khalid Abdul Muhammad's recent remarks at Kean College in New Jersey were filled with anti-semitic remarks which were loudly protested by the ADL, the press, Members of Congress. In a speech delivered to students, the Nation of Islam spokesperson claimed that Jews "were the bloodsuckers of the black community" and responsible for 80% of the slave trade. These and many other falsehoods were re-printed in an advertisement from the Jan. 16, 1994 New York Times. The ad was paid for by the ADL and according to Savren, was attempt to warn the public about the racist beliefs of the Nation of Islam.

On Feb. 14, Mohammad brought his message of intolerance to Kent State University. Missing from his speech, however, were the same deragatory remarks about Jews and whites which characterized his Kean College speech.

Over 1200 Kent students attended the event amidst heavy security and media attention. Prior to Mohammad's speech, students and community members gathered to condemn Mohammad's Kean college speech and promise to work on strengthening racial unity at Kent State. Almost 200 people attended the gathering to hear Kent students and Congressman Eric Fingerhut deliver words of tolerance and respect for racial diversity.

While Mohammad's words were met with applause inside the auditorium, students gathered outside the auditorium to protest Mohammad's appearance. Among these protesters was sophomore Joshua Penzner.

"We were there to show our opposition to Mohommad and to re-affirm our support for racial unity, not division," Penzner said.

Hating out loud: Excerpts from Khalid Abdul Mohammad's speech at Kean College

"[The Jews] are the blood suckers of the black nation and the black community."

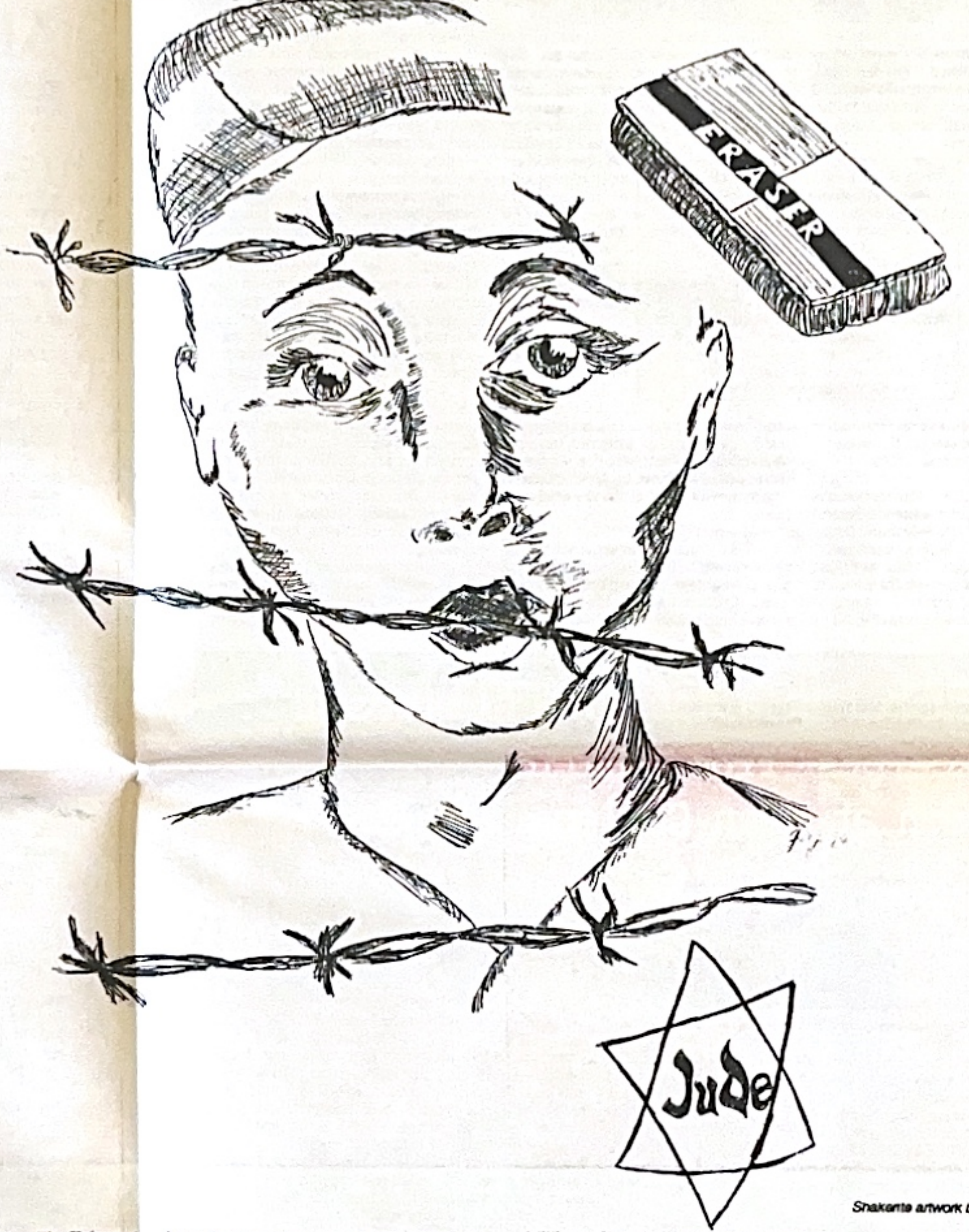
"You see everybody always talk about Hitler exterminating six million Jews. That's right. But don't nobody ever ask what did they do to Hitler?"

"..Hitler, no question about it. He was ... great."

"...a German, in his own country, would almost have to go to a Jew to get money. They had undermined the very fabric of the society."

"If he won't get out of town by sundown, we kill everything white that ain't right in South Africa. We kill the women, we kill the children, we kill the babies. We kill the blind, we kill the crippled, we kill 'em all. We kill the faggot, we kill the lesbian, we kill them all...I said kill the blind, kill the crippled, kill the crazy...and when you get through killing 'em all, go to the graveyard and dig up the grave and kill 'em again...Kill 'em again, 'cause they didn't die hard enough."

"...the old, no-good Pope, you know that cracker."



Shakerite artwork by Jennifer Johnson

Holocaust lessons brought to masses by *Schindler's List*

BY VANYA GREEN
Co-Arts and Entertainment Editor

"In spite of everything I still believe people are really good at heart," Anne Frank wrote in her diary in July of 1944. Shortly thereafter, she was murdered in a concentration camp.

I believe if Anne could see us today she would be a little disheartened by the attitude many people have toward the Holocaust.

When we read *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* in eighth grade I heard little talk of remorse for the horrors that Anne had to go through, or sadness that such a sweet girl was ruthlessly killed. Rather, I heard a lot of speculation as to whether or not Anne was a lesbian.

I have been instructed before at school to place my arm in a "heil Hitler" position during lacrosse practice in order to learn certain skills. And, in mentioning *Schindler's List*, I have heard people call it "the Jew movie."

Schindler's List can not be so easily dismissed. It documents the horror of the Holocaust, and given the ignorance and insensitivity that still exists today, it is a movie that should be seen by all people. The Holocaust should be remembered not only by Jews, but by everyone. Our nation and the world community must know what happened.

Those who feel they know enough about Holocaust and those who know nothing about it should see *Schindler's List*. The movie both informs its audience about the attrocities that occured and it revives certain feelings about the Holocaust.

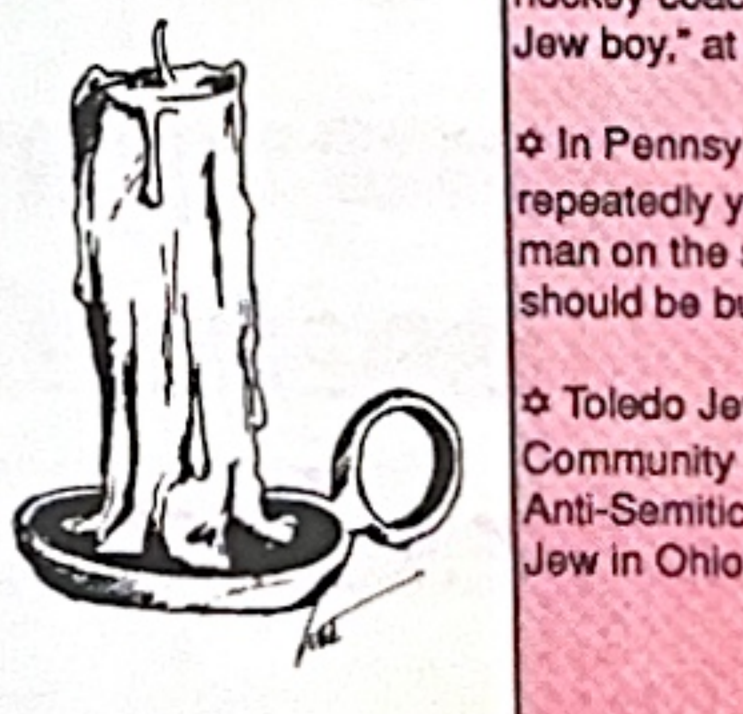
Some people claim that the Holocaust is not something that concerns them, and therefore they do not feel obliged to see the movie. However, the movie not only tells of the horrors that Jews had to go through, it shows how quick the path is from scapegoating to dehumanizing, from dehumanizing to hating, and from hating to madness and killing. From Polpot's killings of Cambodians to ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, we cannot turn a blind eye to genocide. The indifference and lack of compassion that some individuals and governments display towards what is going on in Bosnia today suggests that whatever the lesson is, we have not yet learned it. History shows that those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.

As philosopher Edmund Burke said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Even though Bosnia seems worlds away and people by the millions are not being herded in cattle cars, we cannot turn a blind eye to any form of suffering. We can lobby our representatives and must remain informed.

With the resurgence of anti-semitism and the rasicm that abounds in our society, we must look out for the rights of others as well as ourselves. As the German pastor Martin Niemoeller said, "In Germany they came first for the communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."

Millions of people in Europe knew that Jews were being burned in gas chambers, and yet they turned away. It is difficult for me to comprehend that just 50 years ago my relatives and other Jews were tortured for being Jewish, and their fellow human beings did nothing. If these people had done something, perhaps Hitler would not have been as successful in slaughtering so many innocent people so easily. But the fact remains that few people helped the Jews and other victims. One of those righteous people that did something was the womanizer, opportunist, and Nazi, Oskar Schindler, who rose above his own selfish interests and did something noble.

As many of the survivors of the Holocaust are reaching old age and dying, it is important that they and their sufferings not be forgotten. As time passes, the hurt and pain that has scarred my family and millions of other families will slowly lessen, but we must never forget what happened. I will never forget.



Shakerite artwork by Wee Saing Ng

ADL studies show rise in Anti-Semitic incidents

The following results and facts are from the Anti-Defamation League's 1993 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents.

✡ In 1993, there were 1079 incidents of harassment, threat and assault directed at Jewish individuals and their institutions, up 23% from 1992.

✡ In five years, Anti-Semitic incidents have risen 193%

✡ 32 U.S. states have enacted Hate Crime Laws, which involve penalties.

✡ Anti-Semitic acts on U.S. college campuses have risen for the sixth straight year, up 7% from 1992.

✡ In 1993, six Anti-Semitic incidents were reported at Cleveland State University.

✡ In 1993, 25 cemetery desecrations took place, eight in Ohio. This is a 50% increase from 1992.

✡ In Fort Lauderdale, Florida, an "advertisement" appeared in a newspaper with a daily circulation of 300,000 read: "SOAP–bar of Jewish Human Soap. Real WWII relic. $50."

✡ In Connecticut, a high school hockey coach yelled "Get the Jew boy," at an opposing player.

✡ In Pennsylvania, a man repeatedly yelled at a Jewish man on the streets: "All Jews should be burned!"

✡ Toledo Jewish Federation and Community Center recieved Anti-Semitic phone calls: "No Jew in Ohio is safe."

Compiled by Jonathan Harris

Black contribution to film ignored no longer

BY JOSHUA GOODMAN
Co-Arts & Entertainment Editor

The camera draws closer as the two lovers embrace amidst a pool of darkness. As the two thrust towards each other in a fleeting moment of passion, our senses are awakened to the prospects of another cinematic sexual liason.

This scene, however, is different. The lovers are black.

Nowhere else in popular culture are prejudices and stereotypes magnified to the degree to which they are exploited in the movies and television. For example, until recently, movies and television all but ignored issues of black intimacy and romance. There exists a taboo in Hollywood which suggests that black love just does not sell.

The lack of black romance in films is but one component of a larger question, namely, how blacks are depicted in movies and on television. Since the evolution of film, blacks have been the object of some of Hollywood's harshest prejudices.

As early as 1915, D.W. Griffith's Civil War "epic" film, *Birth of a Nation*, depicted blacks in a demeaning manner. Told from the perspectives of a Northern and a Southern family, the film traces the creation of the Ku Klux Klan and in a deliberate manner glorifies slavery and Southern attempts to rid the South of dumb, wild-eyed negroes. Previewed under the title *The Clansmen*, the film is considered a masterpiece and was hailed by President Franklin Roosevelt as the best film ever made.

In 1927, the first sound picture ever made, *The Jazz Singer*, starred Al Jolson disguised in blackface. This trend continued through the 1940s, and films with black characters were usually portrayed by white actors in blackface. The few black actors in Hollywood were usually confined to roles requiring them to be slaves, butlers or buffoons. Nothing tickled American funny bones more than seeing the adorable Shirley Temple teach her Negro butler how to ride a pony. And of course, no Hollywood film was complete without a derogatory watermelon eating contest.

The 1960s and 1970s saw more of the same. Some black actors, like Sidney Poitier began receiving major roles. Others, however, continued to act only in stereotypically black roles.

Books about blacks in film

- *Black Hollywood: The Black Performer in Motion Pictures*
  Gary Null, 1975
- *Black Film as Genre*
  Thomas Cripps, 1978
- *Blacks in American Films and Television*
  Donald Bogle, 1989
- *Black Cinema Treasures*
  G. William Jones, 1991

Despite the film industry's racist past, many previously unnoticed advances were made by black artists working during film's early stages. Eighty years before Spike Lee, Mario Van Peebles and John Singleton, black directors by the names of Oscar Micheaux, Spencer Williams and William Alexander were making films from a distinctly black perspective. Most were low budget, low quality films. They appealed to almost exclusively black audiences, but were a pioneering effort by blacks to break into the film industry.

Blacks were also active in the effort to rid Hollywood of its racist practices. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) tried to have *Birth of a Nation* banned. In response to *Birth of a Nation's* visceral attacks, blacks began to establish their own independent filmmaking companies. Called "Birth of a Race Photoplay Corporation," this effort at establishing an independent film company was an early attempt by blacks to create films based on racial pride. These early race films showed positive depictions of high achieving black middle class citizens. Birth of a Race and other companies that followed it were all forced out of business, however, unable to compete with the Hollywood establishment.

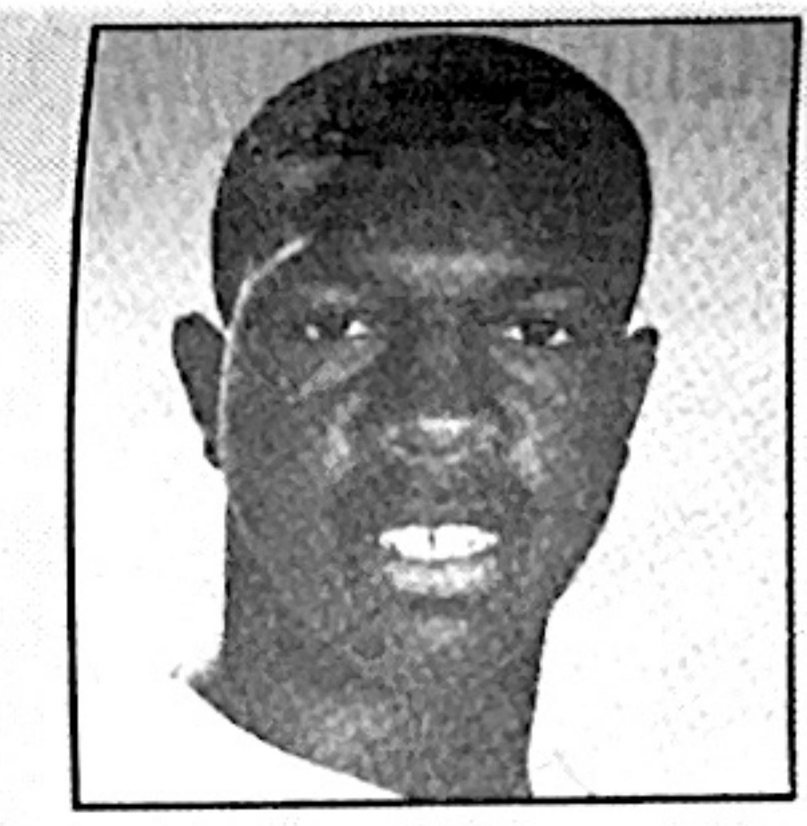
The recent emergence of young black directors indicates a return to the pioneering days of the past. This past year, 18 films made by black directors were released in the United States. Better yet, many of these films received both critical and popular acclaim, forcing Hollywood executives to abandon the old notion that black films do not sell. Many of these directors are exploring issues previously ignored by society in general and Hollywood in particular. John Singleton's *Boyz N the Hood* was an eye opener to many Americans who were previously blind to the hardships of urban, ghetto life. Mario Van Peebles' *Posse* heightened social awareness of the contribution blacks made to the settling of the American Western frontier.

Although known best for racial exploration films like *Malcolm X* and *Do the Right Thing*, Spike Lee has also probed an intimate, more revealing side of black America. In *Mo' Better Blues*, Lee capitalizes on Denzel Washington's superb acting to show one man's struggle to appease the sexual attraction he has for two women. The film is an erotic and sensual piece which defies previously held taboos about black love on the big screen.

Television is also adapting to a new reality. The "Cosby Show," with its depiction of a close-knit black family, has cleared the path for future shows which portray blacks in a positive light. Shows like "A Different World," a Cosby spin-off, and "Family Matters" present black characters in intelligent, highly complex situations.

As the tradition of portraying blacks as objects dies out, the future of film and television will hold more opportunites for black artists.

What Does Black History Month Mean?

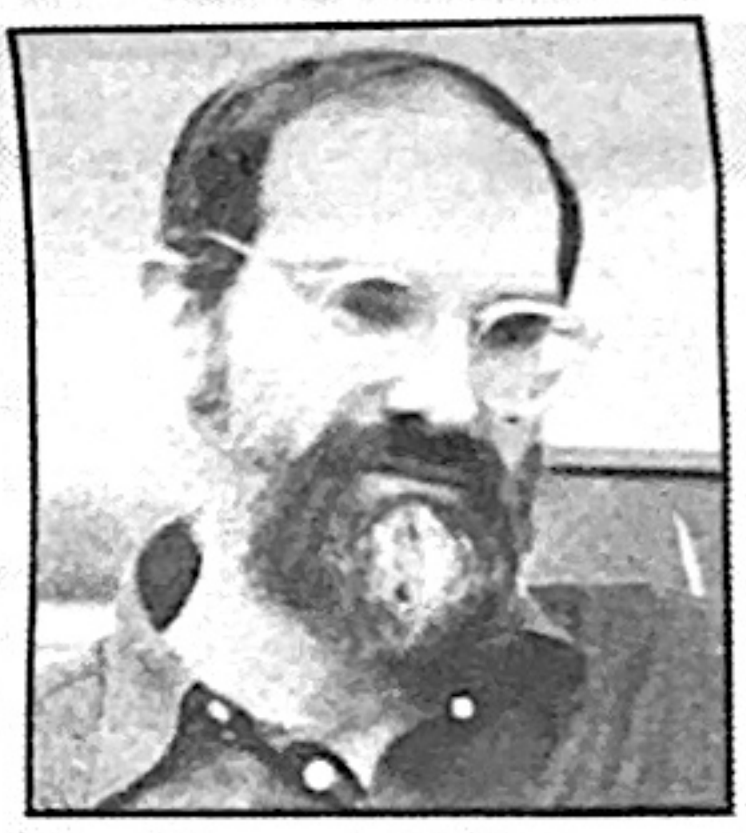


"Black History Month is important to me because it is time to set aside to remember the sacrifices our ancestors made. Because of their accomplishments, African Americans have many more opportunities to succeed. Although this is important, it is more important that African Americans take advantage of these opportunities. The past is important, but our actions in the present will affect our future. I am grateful for those who cried, toiled and prayed so that I can have a chance to succeed in America."

-Anthony Hughley, senior

"African American History Month is the recognition of a reality on one culture's experience in the United States of America. This is one of many histories. St. Patricks Day speaks to the Irish. Columbus Day to the Italians, etc. However, for African Americans this time is more than the recognition of dates and history. African American History/African American History Month speaks to the indomitable spirit of a peoples belief in liberty, equality and justice. It further speaks of their willingness throughout American History to fight, die and speak for these ideals."

-Ruben Henderson III, social studies teacher



"As I listen to the irritated comments of students, I wonder if Black History Month does much good . Some complain, 'Why isn't there a Native American History Month?' Others insist that February, the shortest month, was picked in order to send a symbolic message about the status of black people. Still others protest: 'Black History should be learned year round, not just during one month.' 'Every year I hear about the same people.' I wonder: is this Month further separating us? I know that disproportionate to their numbers black people have contributed to whatever greatness this country posseses–but I didn't learn that from Black History Month."

-Paul Springstubb, English teacher

"As a Jew, Black History Month is important to me in many ways. The Jewish community has historically stood united with the African American community. Black History Month, to me, is a time when all peoples should begin again to unite. When once again we should start to build up and repair relationships, instead of tearing them down. Black History Month should not be the result of harmony and cooperation, but the beginning."

-Joshua Penzner, sophomore

"I feel Black History Month is in part, a time to remember African Americans who died for a unified America; as well as celebrate the accomplishments African Americans have made. We realize the dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others who dared to dream. Most of these people will not be mentioned in the history books. It is unfortunate that only one month out of the year is used to celebrate Black History. Isn't Black History everyone's history?"

-Whitney Marsh, sophomore

"I believe that Black History Month is a good idea to begin with, but I think that it is not extensive enough. We must learn to integrate our daily history education with history about Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, etc. We need to make Black History Month part of every month, not just February. We also need to make Women's History every month, not just March. Until we can bridge this gap, we will be stuck in the segregated ways of the past."

-Heather Hanson, junior

Group assists gay and lesbian youth

The Lesbian/Gay Community Center for Greater Cleaveland offers a support group for teenagers who question their sexuality or consider themselves homosexual. The group meets every Saturday from noon to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 781-6736, 7-10 p.m.

prysm
PRESENCE AND RESPECT FOR YOUTH IN THE SEXUAL MINORITY

Protect yourself

Contraceptives taught while abstinence stressed

BY DEBBIE LIBMAN
Staff Reporter

Your eyes are drooping closed and your mind is far from the classroom, and you doodle drawings on your paper just trying to keep awake.

"Today we're going to learn about birth control, class."

Suddenly, your attention shifts to the teacher rather than to the squirrel prancing across the telephone pole in the distance.

"Who can tell me what I mean by abstinence?"

A few people giggle and others turn red. What you thought would be another boring day may turn out to be interesting after all.

Abstinence, particularly in high school, is the most effective form of birth control. However, abstinence is only as effective as the percent of people who use it.

The school, therefore, teaches contraceptives as part of the health curriculum to keep the students protected if they will not abstain according to health teacher Christy Matta.

The health curriculum was adopted and approved by the school board according to Principal A. Jack Rumbaugh. If, due to religious beliefs, parents choose for their children not to participate in this health class, Rumbaugh said he teaches an alternative course that stresses only abstinence.

"Abstinence is the best form of birth control," sophomore Reuben Levine said. "If people are going to have sex anyhow, then you should teach them to use contraception so they're safe."

The school is flexible to the needs of students and parents, according to Rumbaugh.

"We need to make sure family values are upheld at school," Rumbaugh said.

In today's society, abstinence is becoming more widely emphasized because of a growing series of programs and classes that teach chastity, according to *The New York Times*.

"A lot of young people are abstaining from sex," Nurse Evelyn Wisham said.

Often confronted by students for help with sexual decisions, Wisham said she thinks that pregnancy is no longer the number one concern among students, although it is still a major issue. She said that AIDS has changed the outlook students have toward sex.

"[AIDS] is taking great effect, because people have been encouraged to [have sex] safely," sophomore Nancy Green said.

Education about AIDS and safe sex is a necessary step for students, because it is a lack of knowledge that is the real danger to them, according to Rumbaugh.

Largely due to the recent AIDS awareness push, adolescents recognize the need to say "no" to sex, according to *The New York Times*.

There are a lot of risks involved in sexual activity, said freshman Sherwin Thompson."There's no way of truly protecting yourself from getting diseases out there except for abstinence."

On the other hand, sophomore Paul Daniels said that the use of contraceptives needs to be stressed so that adolescents become less timid about condoms and other birth control methods.

"Contraception is more practical to be taught, because kids are going to have sex no matter what," senior Erin Stevens said.

Contraceptives should be available in the school, according to freshman Shelli Calland, who also believes that abstinence should be emphasized.

"No matter how much you teach abstinence, it will never be totally effective," Calland said.

The major reasons that adolescents become sexually active is the media and peer pressure, according to Wisham.

Because of the pressures on students today, Rumbaugh said that the school's health curriculum appropriately stresses abstinence, but teaches birth control, as well.

Shakerite artwork by Wee Seing Ng

"We approach [sex education] openly, honestly, with the right knowledge base and try to be nonjudgmental," Rumbaugh said.

You glance at the clock and realize how quickly class has gone.

The bell rings and as you leave the room you hear the teacher call after the class.

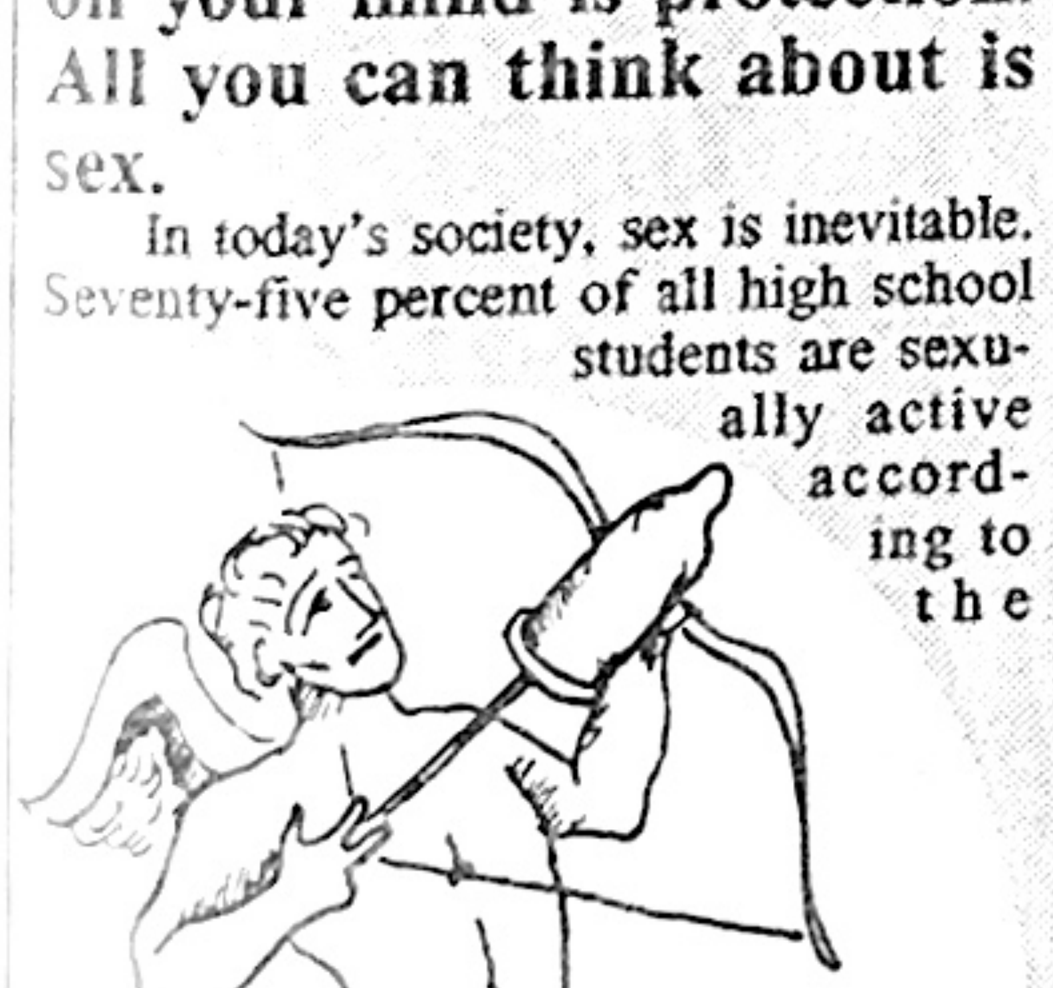
"Just remember, if you are not going to abstain from sex itself, at least abstain from unsafe sex."

healthful hints

When the lights go down, be responsible and be prepared

While you sit on the couch arm in arm with the one you love, the last thing on your mind is protection. All you can think about is sex.

In today's society, sex is inevitable. Seventy-five percent of all high school students are sexually active according to the Ohio Department of Health. As more and more teens consider sex, words such as AIDS, STDs and pregnancy are becoming common topics.



Shakerite artwork by Wee Sing Ng

The health department encourages abstinence but recognize the need to focus on ways to prevent diseases and pregnancy according to health teacher Christy Matta.

The only way to protect ourselves is by knowing all the facts, so here is the best and worst of birth control.

❖**Abstinence:** The safest protection from STDs and AIDS. It's free and you can receive it by saying no to sex.

❖**Condoms:** Fairly inexpensive, usually costing between $4 and $8 for a dozen. It's 98 percent effective and is one of the leading preventors of AIDS and related diseases. They can be bought over-the-counter at most drugstores. Though more expensive, condoms with spermicide are more effective in preventing pregnancy. Unfortunately, spermicides can cause irritation for some individuals.

❖**Diaphragm:** The price ranges anywhere from $17 to $20. If you use it properly it has around a 97 percent chance of preventing pregnancy. However, it may be related to T.S.S (toxic shock syndrome), and has no protection against STDs. In order to receive one you need to consult a doctor. A diaphragm is a small rubber device that has to be placed inside the uterus to block the sperm from fertilizing the egg.

❖**Sponge:** This is another over-the-counter device that costs around $5 for a package of three. It has a 92-95 percent rate of prevention if used properly. To do this you need to soak it thoroughly in water in order to activate the spermicide. If you do not the rate is lowered to only 72-80 percent. The sponge is placed in the small opening to the uterus. Sponges have some protection against AIDS.

❖**Pill:** These are pills made of artificial hormones that can only be obtained by prescription. If you use as directed the pill has a 99 percent rate of working, but there may be some major side effects such as blood clotting, weight gain and nausea. Also, using the pill will not protect you from any STDs or AIDS.

❖**I U D:** These are devices placed in the uterus by a clinician to stop fertilized eggs from implanting themselves for growth. They have a 95-98 percent rate of effectiveness, but offer no protection against AIDS.

❖**Norplant:** This contraceptive is a hormonal implant that has a 100 percent effectiveness for a period of up to five years. Norplant has to be placed and removed by surgery, and it gives no protection against AIDS and STDs. The whole procedure of receiving it can cost between $330 and $550.

❖**Depo-Provera:** This is a hormonal injection that is effective for up to three months. There is a .1 percent chance it will not work, but like Norplant, Depo-Provera does not offer protection against AIDS and STDs.

❖**Foam:** Foam has an effectiveness rate of 95 percent if used correctly. To use it properly, you must inject the foam into an applicator which then is inserted into the uterus. This will then form a barrier which will kill the sperm. Contraceptive and or spermicidal foams can be purchased over-the-counter at most drug stores. Using foam will provide you with little to no protection against AIDS and STDs.

The Cost of Safety:
Condoms-
- Lifestyles $8.49 for 3
- Trojan $1.99 for 3
- Ramses $ 3.49 for 3
- Gold Circle Coin $1.79 for 3
- Arouse$1.49 for 3

Sponge-
- Today Sponge $8.99

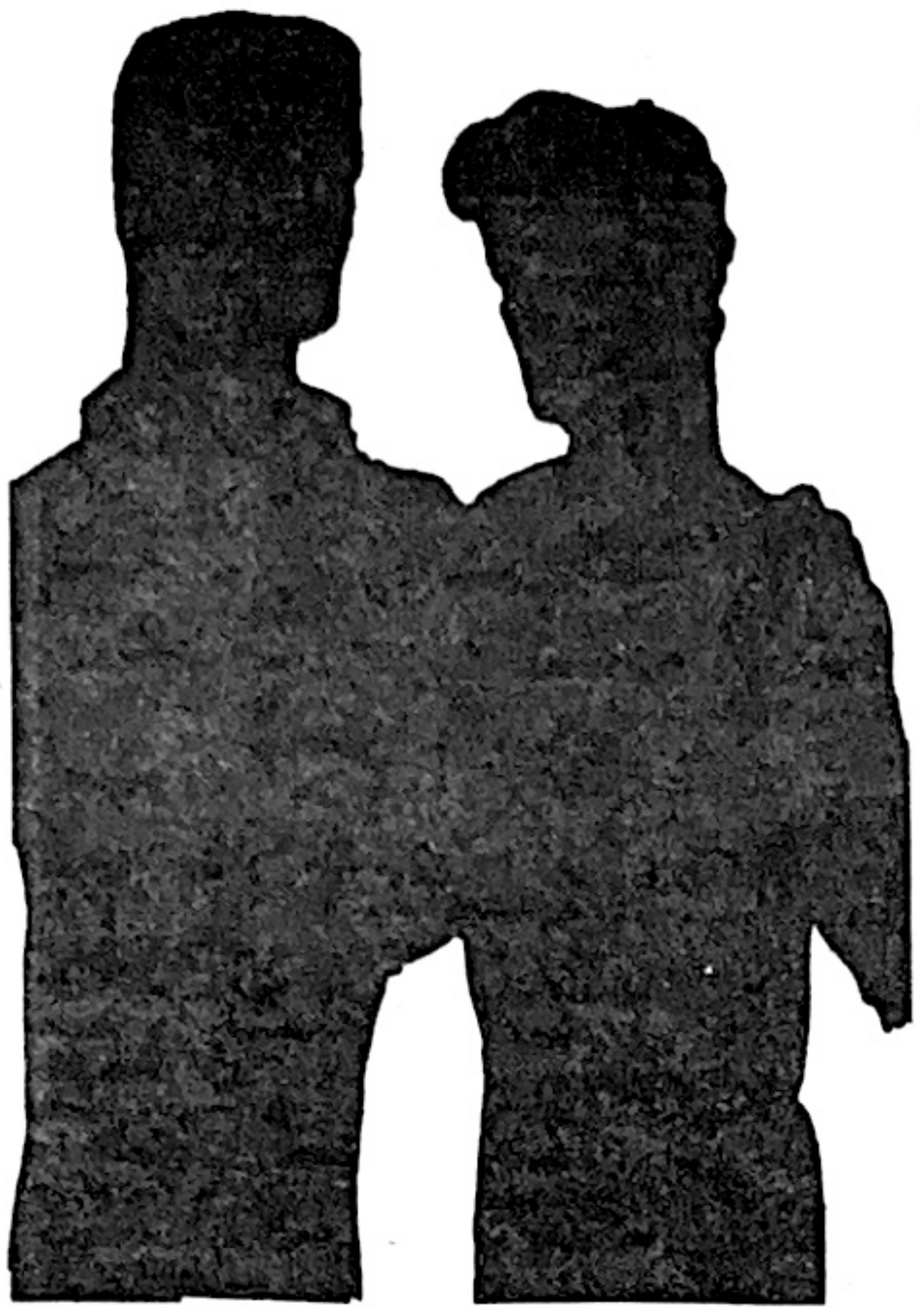
Contraceptive Jelly $10.99
Contraceptive Foam $11.49

Contraceptive facts compiled by Nicole Sutcliffe

Shakerite source:Plain Dealer February 7, 1993

Prices from Revco stores.
Contraceptive prices compiled by Thomas McGill

Society taking steps to accept homosexuality



BY RACHEL ZINN
Staff Reporter

Jay felt comfortable expressing his confusion about his sexual preference in a health class full of friends. In a society that has been moving toward accepting homosexuals, he never expected the wide eyes and malicious snickers that greeted him.

The above story is fabricated, but it is not far from the truth.

"The kids are very self-conscious about being seen as homosexual," health teacher Christy Matta said.

Matta explained that her health class would probably not be supportive if a student were open about his homosexuality, because many students see homosexuality as unacceptable.

The attitudes in school are only a reflection of the attitudes in our society. Homosexual marriages are illegal in most states, one-third of all teenage suicides are committed by homosexuals, and it is still legal in most places to fire employees because of their sexual orientation according to Eric Marcus in his book *Is It a Choice?* .

"Homosexuals as a group are so unaccepted that they feel they have to hide their sexuality. That's a big piece of yourself to keep hidden," youth adviser Diane Nichols said.

Despite discrimination, homosexuality is becoming more tolerated in many aspects of our society, including the law. Homosexuality itself is not against the law, but many states have laws against certain sexual acts. These laws are rarely enforced, but according to Marcus, they are enforced more often for homosexuals than for heterosexuals. In contrast to these prejudicial legal practices, laws to prevent discrimination against homosexuals have been passed in a few states Marcus said.

Homosexuality has made great strides in how it is viewed by the medical community, also. In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association Board voted to no longer categorize homosexuality as a mental illness. It was formerly treated as a perversion, which is an emotional or physical attachment to an "inappropriate" person or object.

"[Homosexuality] was thought to be caused by abnormal development and was treated with therapy," psychiatrist Deborah Gould said.

Society has come to recognize the needs of gays and lesbians in our educational system as well, according to Marcus.

Marcus explained that many colleges now offer courses and support groups about homosexual issues. He also said that homosexual students and teachers are more open about their sexuality.

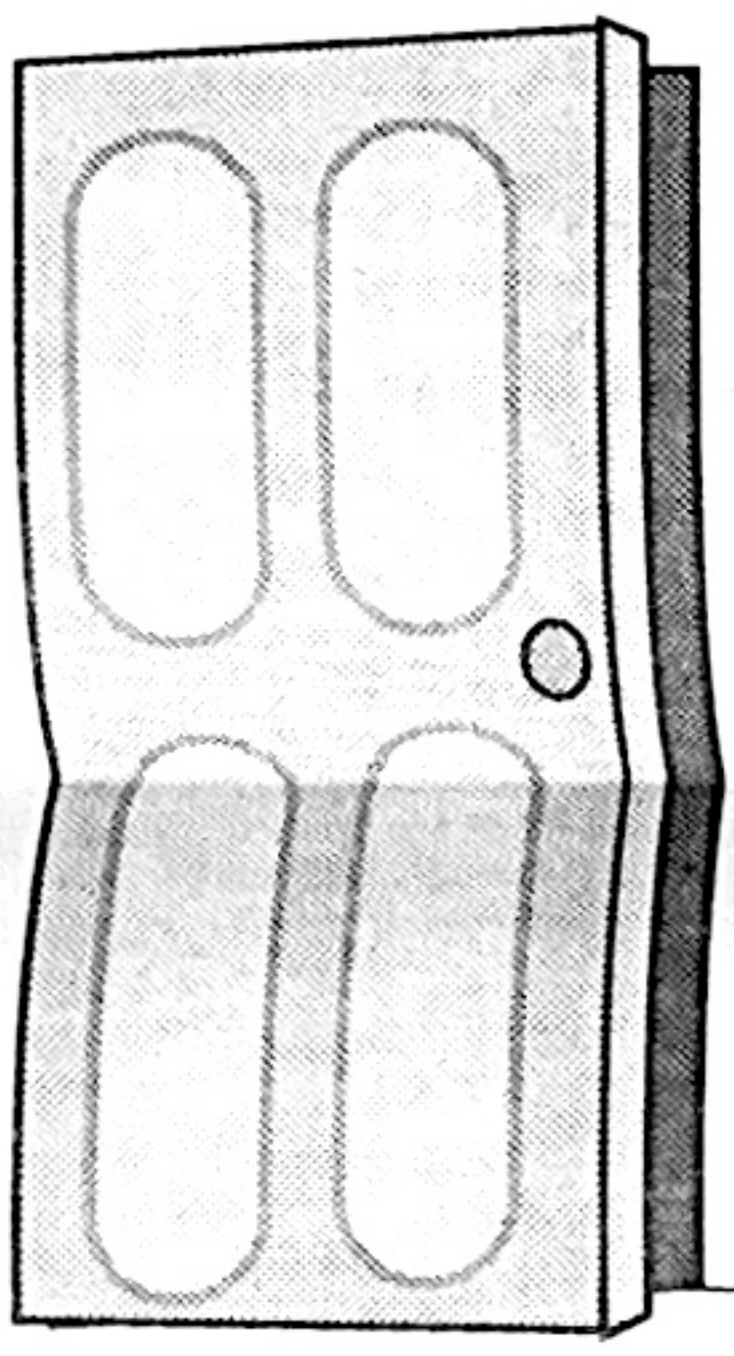
At school, homosexuality is addressed in health class, but only in terms of definitions. Matta said that she had discussed with other teachers the possibility of inviting a speaker to talk to the class about other issues of homosexuality.

For students who are interested in what they can do to make homosexuality more accepted, Gould offers advice.

"Keep an open mind, learn as much as possible about it and discuss your feelings with other individuals," Gould said.

Nichols, who has counseled homosexuals, also has advice for students who discover that a friend or family member is homosexual.

"Remember that they're human," Nichols said. "It's a hard road to take. They hurt, too."



Out of the closet

Homosexuality is working its way out of the dark and into acceptance

Shakerite artwork by Dan Eisenberg

Coming to terms with personal sexual orientation brings confusion, relief

BY SEEMA SHAH
Staff Reporter

They were married on Ocracoke Island against a backdrop of rolling waves and a night sky full of stars. With only God as their witness, Michelle* and Rachel* exchanged lifelong vows to each other.

Michelle and Rachel, in their 30's, are a married couple and consider their marriage as valid as anyone else's.

"We exchanged vows to each other, and we love each other. That's all that really counts," Michelle said.

The decision making process of discovering personal sexual identity poses a problem for some while is never question for others.

"Some quickly realize that they are gay or lesbian. A few view themselves as mysteriously diseased. Others are merely confused, haunted by an attraction to members of the same sex that is looked upon with undisguised contempt by their own peers and by society at large," *Maclean's* Feb. '93 issue said.

Unsure about her sexuality, junior Katie* said that she faces confusion.

"I first began to wonder about myself when I found that I was extremely attracted to an actress in a movie I saw," Katie said. "This startled me and scared me. I thought, 'God, am I sick?'"

However, Katie said that although she knows now that her feelings are natural, she does not want to tell people.

"I'm not sure I am bisexual, because I have never had the opportunity to date a female. I don't really know for sure who any lesbians are in the school. I am not going to advertise myself either. I hear enough cracks and hateful remarks to make me hide my inclinations carefully," Katie said.

Since open expression of sexual orientation can lead to social prejudices, many people besides Katie choose to hide.

"I felt a little relieved when I realized I was gay, but also felt socially awkward, because I have to hide who I am to the general public. My father disowned me because he thought it was against his morals," Michelle said.

According to recent research however, homosexuality may not be a choice.

"The most significant factors responsible for sexual orientation may occur prior to birth by hormone influence in the fetal brain," *Colliers Encyclopedia '91* said.

On the other hand, this research does not convince everyone.

"It's the person's choice, because everyone is born normal. They are born liking the opposite sex. If someone is homosexual, it's by their choice," freshman Sherwin Thompson said.

Some feel that genetics and surroundings both play a part in homosexuality.

"It's both genetics and environment, because if you have homosexual parents, that's all you learn. If you're surrounded by a lot of guys or a lot of girls all the time, then that's all you learn," sophomore Toni McTier said.

Some people who are having trouble accepting their sexual identity can face serious problems.

"These kids carry a terrible added weight at a really critical time," *Maclean's* said. "Every year in the United States, 5,000 people between the ages of 15 and 24 take their own lives...fully 30 percent of those suicides are related to the emotional turmoil over sexual orientation."

At first, Katie said that she had trouble accepting her feelings.

"I tried to ignore my attraction to women. I wasn't attracted to all women, and I'm also attracted to men. Since I couldn't ignore my attractions, I now accept them," Katie said.

On the other hand, Michelle said she accepted her feelings right away.

"I had always had real intense emotional relationships with females. I always knew I was different and would follow my own path," Michelle said.

In any case, gay and lesbian teens are faced with many hardships.

"If they openly confess their sexual orientation or doubts, they face verbal and perhaps physical harassment. If they keep quiet, they remain lonely and alienated," *Maclean's* said.

But gay teens can go on to lead happy lives.

Michelle and Rachel, who have been married for six years, celebrate their anniversary every year and share their love every day.

"My kids will have the freedom to choose how they want to live and now, I don't have to fit any man's mold anymore. Despite all the prejudice I face, I still feel so blessed," Michelle said.

**names have been changed*

THE LOOK
COMMENTARY

Getting used

The Look tries thrift stores on for size

BY DONALD HILL
Staff Reporter

Used clothes for sale? It may turn you off to go to a store where everything has been worn before, but some people think it is the ultimate shopping experience.

Second-hand stores have been around for a long time. There are four general types; thrift stores, which are all charitable and have very low prices; vintage clothing stores, which carry clothes from past decades; used designer clothing boutiques, which sell designer clothing for semi-affordable prices; and consignment shops, which sell clothes a customer brings in and pays the customer a percentage of what the item was sold for.

Many students frequent these stores, so I decided to see what the experience was all about.

I had some reservations about going to these stores. I worried about encountering homeless people fighting over sweaters and rats and bugs crawling all over the clothes. This was not the case at all. Accompanying me was senior Courtnè Coffey and sophomore Alex Hamerstone, neither of whom had ever been second-hand shopping before. We were all in for an experience.

If you want to go second-hand store shopping, you can't just drive around town hoping to find a store. A good place to start is the Yellow Pages. We came up with a list of a variety of local stores.

First, we went to Armand's Echo, a men's consignment shop located at the corner of Cedar and Lee Roads (diagonally across from Cleveland Heights High). We found this store to be good, if you are looking for conservative clothing. The salespeople were friendly and helpful and everything was in fine shape. I saw a Georgio Armani suit, of a regular retail value of around $1,000 for sale at an amazing $128. It looked like it was new! I was also amazed to see Hugo Boss clothing, GAP button downs in plaid and solid colors and a very stylish, red Tommy Hilfiger blazer, that I regret not buying. A staff member informed me that anyone is welcome to bring unwanted clothes in and the store will sell them, returning 50 percent of the profit.

Next we stopped at Thriftique, located at 2242 Lee Road (next to Subway). This is a small thrift store, stuffed with racks full of interesting men's and women's clothing, as well as jewelry, shoes, books and household appliances. Coffey found a choker, made from wire, bent into flower shapes with blue stones in its center. I found a stylish, fun outfit that must have come right out of the 70's. The shirt was all suede, with a pirate-like lacing in the front. It was only three dollars! To go with it, I found a two dollar pair of brown corduroy bell-bottoms. Nearby, I spotted a pair of brown boots that finished the outfit. The total price was eight dollars. Not bad!

Our final stop was Goodbye Charlie, a women's used designer clothing store. It is located at the corner of Lee and Mayfield Roads. I was not that impressed with this store. The clothes were nice and of designer name brands like Calvin Klein and Donna Karan, but their prices were the same as some stores like T.J. Maxx, where the clothes are actually new. The salespeople were rude and unhelpful.

Second-hand shopping was an interesting experience, and I would like to go again sometime. I learned that each time is different, because each store has its good and bad days, based on the selection of merchandise. This type of shopping takes much patience and creativity. You have to have some idea of how to put certain pieces together, or you could just throw anything together for a very unique look. Trust me, you will not see anyone else at school with your outfit on. Peace out and stay in style.

If you decide to go second-hand shopping, here are some tips you may want to keep in mind:

–Be patient! It takes time to go through all of the racks, and you may not see anything that appeals to you.

–You never know what you might find. There may be a certain style that you had seen at an expensive store that may turn up in one of these stores.

–Don't spend too much. Be wary of stores trying to take advantage of you by overcharging the merchandise.

–Check to make sure the garments you want to buy have all of their buttons.

–Check the hems and stitchery in the garments.

–Check the pockets for pleasant (and not so pleasant) surprises.

–When you get home:
-Make sure you wash the clothing before wearing it.
-Take special care items to a dry cleaner.

NOTHING NEW. Senior Courtné Coffey, above, sports a casual look from Goodbye Charlie. Coffey's entire ensemble costs $38. Senior Donald Hill, right, wears a retro-70's outfit from Thriftique. The suede pirate shirt, corduroy bell-bottoms and boots cost $8.

Shakerite photos by Donald Hill and Alex Hamerstone

Running away from home

Nikelenko escaped country's unrest, now battles fitting in

BY JULIE GALLAGHER
Staff Reporter

IN PROFILE

Her manner is serious as she explains the war and political situation in her country, Prednestrovie, but her tone turns wistful as she recalls the yet to be replaced home and friends.

Moving is difficult for any teenager, but it was especially so for seventeen-year-old Oksana Nikelenko. She watched her country erupt into civil war, and listened to the nearby sounds of gunfire as she sat safe in her basement.

However, she was not left untouched by the violence surrounding her. A bullet grazed her one day as she was crossing the street. It left not only a scratch, but a harsh reminder of war's senselessness.

"I was thankful to God, because he saved me," Nikelenko said.

Although Shaker is a safe haven after watching the destruction of her former city, Benderi, it is not yet a true home. Language has built a barrier between Nikelenko and students which no one has tried to cross. There is an empty place in her life where friends used to overflow.

Nikelenko's face lights up as she talks of Dina, her best friend. She says that leaving her was hard, but hopes they will be reunited someday.

"Coming here would have been so much easier if she was with me," she said.

Nikelenko is focusing now on improving her English, but wants to later pursue a career in art. The artwork adorning her bedroom walls proves her talent.

"Art is my hobby, it keeps me company," she explained.

However, art school is secondary to improving her English. Next year, she will attend Cuyahoga Community College for further help with her English.

"My English is not yet very good, so I will work more on it," Nikelenko said.

Nikelenko still has her family though, the last tangible remnant of a life left behind. Her mother speaks limited English and Oksana's brother, Oleg, whom she playfully describes as "that terrible boy," is a typical eight-year-old.

Nikelenko's adjustment to Shaker is ongoing, one she hopes will be complete before she leaves school in June. She still has a home and friends to replace.

Junior Council on World Affairs experiences culture with legal drugs

DEBBIE LIBMAN
Staff Reporter

It may seem that the Dutch culture is that of wooden shoes, chocolate, and tulips. But in the Netherlands, drugs are just as legal and just as popular as these common commodities.

In the Netherlands, where drugs are both legal and apparent, there is little crime, according to senior Brad Karfeld, a participant in the Junior Council on World Affair's (JCWA) trip to the Hague last month.

The students who visited Europe noticed few police because of this low rate of drug-related crime, Karfeld said.

"[Drug abuse] did not seem to be as big of a problem as it is [in the United States]," senior Larry Boyd said.

Though drug-related crime is still existent in the Netherlands, it is not as violent and nor as frequent, according to Boyd.

Drug abuse in the Netherlands is actually relative to the district and is more prevalent in the cities senior David Sher said.

"[Drug abuse] wasn't blatantly obvious. Not everyone is involved," senior Aaron Pierce said.

Drugs are easily accessible in the Netherlands and often sold in bars according to Karfeld.

In fact, signs limiting drugs to 30 milligrams are commonplace at bars and restaurants often feature drugs on the menu according to junior Kate Fleming.

"[Using drugs] is more of a social thing [in the Netherlands]," Karfeld said.

If drugs were legalized in the United States, it would be a shock to society if the change came all at once, Pierce said.

The wrong signal would be sent to people in the United States and the abuse level would probably go up slightly according to senior Robert Cameron, who does not support legalization of drugs.

Although drug-related crime would be less frequent, senior Gopal Garuda said that legalizing drugs would increase experiments with these harmful substances and at the same time promote poor morals to young people.

"European society is a lot different," Boyd said. "I don't think the same [drug system] would work [in the United States]."

There is a cycle created in using drugs according to Garuda. In the Netherlands, though drugs are more readily available, people still steal money to purchase them. The situation in the United States is similar in that drug users steal money to buy drugs illegally.

So, next time you visit the Netherlands, remember that while you are smelling the tulips, and smelling the chocolate, you are smelling the marijuana, too.

SPORTS

The Top 5 Reasons Shaker should be the site of the 1998 Winter Olympics

5. It's a shorter trip for Tonya Harding to make from the Oregon Women's Correctional Facility
4. U.S. athletes keep asking for Trainer Bob.
3. Library staff would be able to provide unparalleled security.
2. The Thornton Park hills would make an excellent Super G course.
1. Dr. Rumbaugh could light the Olympic torch as he completes a successful luge run.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Hockey team is hopeful as they begin sectionals

The long climb to a second state championship reached its peak as the varsity ice hockey team officially began its defense of the state title when sectionals began Feb. 15.

As of Feb. 16, their record was 16-10. Along with the defending state title, they feel that they can defend the Baron Cup title which began on Feb. 9, however they lost to University School.

"We have been practicing and playing very well lately, and I feel that we are peaking at just the right time. I think we have an excellent chance to repeat," said senior forward Dan Updegraft.

Other members of the team feel the same way Updegraft does about repeating as state champions and Baron Cup champions.

"People haven't taken us seriously all year, but we all know that we have an excellent chance to repeat,and we're ready to show everybody," said senior captain Dan Glasson.

Along with the feeling that they are playing well, another source of optimism comes from the fact that they have been placed in an easy bracket for the state tournament.

"I think we have a good chance because of [the bracket we've been placed in]. The toughest teams in our bracket are Cleveland Heights and Bay Village, and we have a pretty good chance to beat both of them," said head coach Mike Bartley.

In order to win their second straight state championship they need to win two games in Sectionals, two at Districts, and two at States.

–Cliff Mendelsohn

Basketball team has trouble getting victories

After five consecutive winning seasons, the mens basketball team is in the midst of its second straight year with a sub .500 record.

Many of the high school's losses have come as a result of close games. The team has lost three overtime games. Several games have been close down the stretch, only to have the team fold in the end.

Against Valley Forge, the high school was down by 15 in the first half when they forged a huge comeback. After taking a two point lead late in the game, Shaker collapsed and lost.

"The kids are trying pretty hard. We've lost a lot of close games," said head coach Bob Wonson. "[The other teams] have better coaching.

"We've been inconsistant in our shooting from the field and from the free throw line. We've had a chance to lock up a couple of games at the foul line, but we did not. We also have to rebound better," Wonson said.

Another reason the high school is having a rough season, according to Wonson, is the strength of their schedule.

"We've played several teams in the Top 25. The two teams we lost to in the Alabama tournament also would have been ranked."

There are some positives this year. Senior Damon Thomas, who was all Lake Erie League last year is leading the team in scoring.

"We shoot the ball pretty well on the perimeter," Wonson added.

–Michael Becker

Athletes must learn to abstain from drugs, according to school policy

BY EMILY GOETZ AND LESLIE SIMON
Staff Reporter

Shakerite artwork by Peter Lim

As athletes sit in front of their coaches at the start of the season, they each receive the athletic code, stating that they will refrain from using all illegal substances during the season. Some do not understand the significance of signing the code, but others realize the responsibility their signature promises.

The athletic code states, "An athlete must avoid possesion or use of alcoholic beverages, smoking materials or illegal drugs." Violation of this rule "may result in denying the student the right to participate in part of, or the entire sports season."

"I don't think many [players] remember signing it. They just know basically what it means," said freshman hockey player Brian Cohen.

Though the penalties of using drugs or drinking during the season are clearly spelled out, some Shaker athletes do not seem to take the code seriously.

"Some players think that the athletic code is a big joke. They drink, or smoke, or get high anyway," said a student athlete.

Many players said that they follow the rule because of personal reinforcement by coaches or other adults rather than because they signed the code. Assistant Principal Randall Yates said he agrees with this statement.

Athletes are more apt to listen to coaches warnings about breaking the code, rather than warnings from parents or other athletes, Yates said.

Linda Betley, field hockey coach and physical education department head, said that she would be disappointed if she found an athlete not playing by the rules.

"Point blank, don't do it! It's unfortunate that some athletes get caught up in the whole scene. They think that it's fun at first, but then it turns into a habit," said Betley.

However, some athletes abstain from drugs or alcohol use because of personal reasons. They do not let others influence their decision to be the best they can be.

"I'd be more concerned with the consequences of my performance than what the coaches would do. I would be letting myself and them down because I would not be an asset to the team anymore," said a freshman swimmer.

The athletic code does not have a large effect on athletes. Because of problems that occured in the past, she said the code is presently being reviewed, and the penalties for breaking it could become more strict in the future.

Athletes may use drugs or drink because they think it is fun or are just giving into peer pressure. The physical and mental affects of these substances, however can be detrimental to the athlete's ability to play their best.

Womens basketball team adjusts to new coach; finishes 5-1 in Lake Erie League

BY SCOTT FULLER
Staff Reporter

John Marhefka, the new head coach of the womens basketball team has been pleasantly surprised. At the beginning of the season he knew a division championship was not far in the future, but he did not expect it to come this season. However, his team proved him wrong.

The high school finished atop the Erie Division in a tie with Parma, each with a 7-6 record in the Lake Erie League. Shaker's overall record is 9-10, and Parma's is 8-11.

Krysten Dean, one of the two junior captains, does not share Marhefka's surprise.

"No [I'm not surprised], because we've been working for this the entire season," said Dean.

The championship capped off a year of constant improvement for the Raiders.

"I think that we're a lot smarter on the court," said Aisha Lewis, the other junior captain. "We're playing more as a team, a unit. We're in better shape, too."

Lewis attributes much of the team's success to the new coach.

"I think that this team is much better than last year's. [Marhefka] is more down to earth than our old coach. He's a lot of fun, and I think he knows more about the game."

The high school lost its first battle with Parma earlier in the year, but they beat them in a crucial game on Feb. 5.

The Raiders are happy with their title, but they feel that they are a better team than Parma.

"When we first played them we weren't playing our game," said Dean.

Next year Shaker will lose several talented players, including senior captain Raquel Robinson.

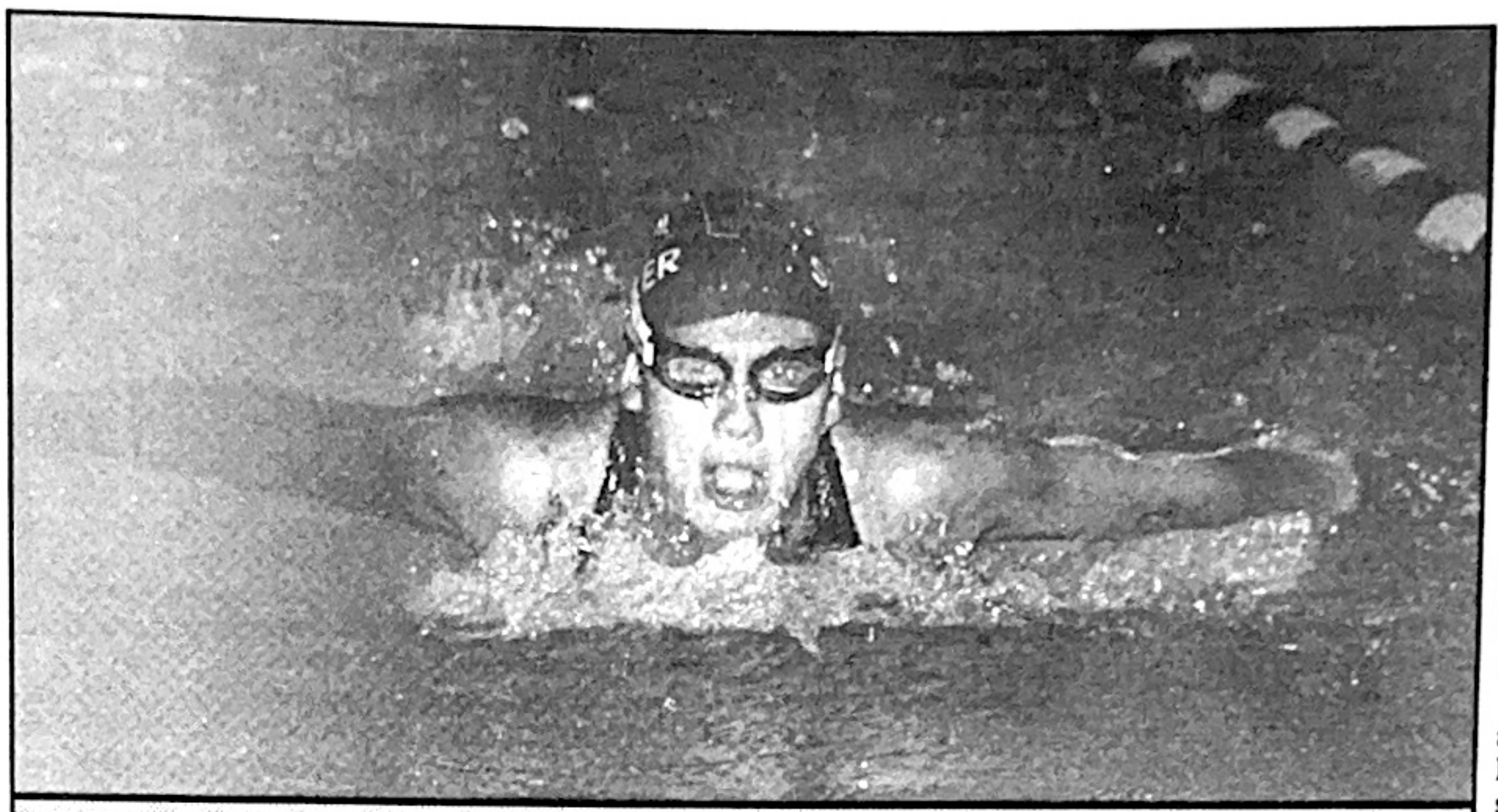
> *I think we're a lot smarter on the court. We're playing more as a team, a unit. We're in better shape, too. I think that this team is much better than last year's."*
>
> *–Aisha Lewis*

GET IN! Junior Krysten Dean practices her jump shot during a practice for the womens basketball team. The team is 9-10 overall, with a 5-1 record in the Lake Erie League.
Shakerite photo by Courtney Masini

Swim teams go through season undefeated: look to make waves in districts and states

BY LEIGH STEVENS AND JOHN LOMBARDO

Staff Reporters



FLYING TO THE FINISH. Junior Erin Yates swims the butterfly in the high school's Feb. 4 meet against Parma. The womens team has a record of 11-0, while the men are 10-0. The state tournament begins on Feb. 25.

Shakerite photo by W. Michael Fleming

This year's swim teams are having another outstanding season and are looking to do well in the state meet, according to coach Ernest Welsch.

So far this season the mens team has a record of 10-0, while the women have compiled a 11-0 record.

The womens team is defending their title as Lake Erie League (LEL) champions for the eighth year in a row, and the mens team is defending their title for the fourth year in a row.

Over the past two and a half years, the mens team has won 23 duel meets in a row, and the womens team has won 24.

During winter break the team traveled to Florida for an intense training program.

"This was the hardest training program of the year. The facility was gorgeous, and the team had a chance to train with colleges such as Penn State," Welsch said.

The team also practices hard at home. They have a daily practice from 3:30 to 6:00 in the evening, and two times a week some practice from 5:50 to 7:20 in the morning. Welsch said that he feels all of *this* practice is necessary because he believes that time *yields results.*

Welsch encourages the swimmers through these hard practices with mottos such as, "No Excuses."

Along with their daily practices, swimmers also do "dryland" in their weight room increasing their strength for when they get in the pool.

"Practices are hard, but they bring the team together because everyone pushes each other," sophomore Nathan Sheeran said.

All of their hard work has paid off, Welsch said. Many of the swim team's hardworking swimmers that went to states last year have returned for another season. The returning state women swimmers are, senior Roberta Challener, junior Erin Yates, and sophomores Erin McCourt, Jane Calfee, and Kelly Scott.

The returning state mens swimmers are, senior Will Glasson, junior David Moore, and sophomore Andrew Keay.

Some of the swimmers work hard all year for the rewards of districts and states.

"We've worked real hard and I hope it pays off in districts and states," sophomore Erin McCourt said.

Despite the returning champions from last year, the swim team is still a young team. Welsch believes that the young swimmers entering the high school do so well because they have gotten the necessary swimming experience with the Shaker Sharks, a team of over 300 younger swimmers.

Welsch expects to have a few All-American swimmers this year, and he also is expecting to send some of them to nationals.

Last year, Mike Melley acheived All-American status, helping earn himself a scholarship to Villanova University.

The next years mens team is expected to be even better than this year's. The men coming up from the eighth grade are the strongest yet Welsch says, and the team is only losing one senior, Will Glasson, this year.

The state meet for both the mens and the womens team begins on Friday and concludes on Saturday. The meet is held in Columbus.

Welsch expects to send many swimmers from both teams to make the trip to Columbus.

The district meet was held last Friday and Saturday at the Cleveland State University pool.

High school students ski their way through winter

BY DEBBIE LIBMAN

Staff Reporter

Bundle up, it's cold outside! With all that snow and those sub-zero temperatures, it seems as if there's nothing to do. Wrong! Try cross-country skiing.

"[Cross-country skiing] is fun and good exercise," sophomore Laura Kushnick said. "And it's easily accessible."

Cross-country skiing is a sport that requires little preparation. In fact, after a good snow, sidewalks are one of the best places for the sport.

RECREATIONAL SPORTS

"You can go on all golf courses and to Southerly Park," sophomore Lynsey Croll said.

Cross country skiing is a good sport for people to either do alone or in groups.

"I really like to go out in the early morning to cross-country ski when no one is around," Croll said. "It's really peaceful and I have time to myself."

"Cross-country skiing really helps me relieve stress. You're out in nature, and you don't have any of the distractions of everyday life," junior Toby Kramer said.

Sophomore Jenny Spencer has only been skiing once, but considers it a fun sport.

"It's hard work," according to Spencer, "but it's worth it because you feel good and it's a lot of fun."

Here is a listing of sporting good stores where cross-country skis are available for rental or purchase:

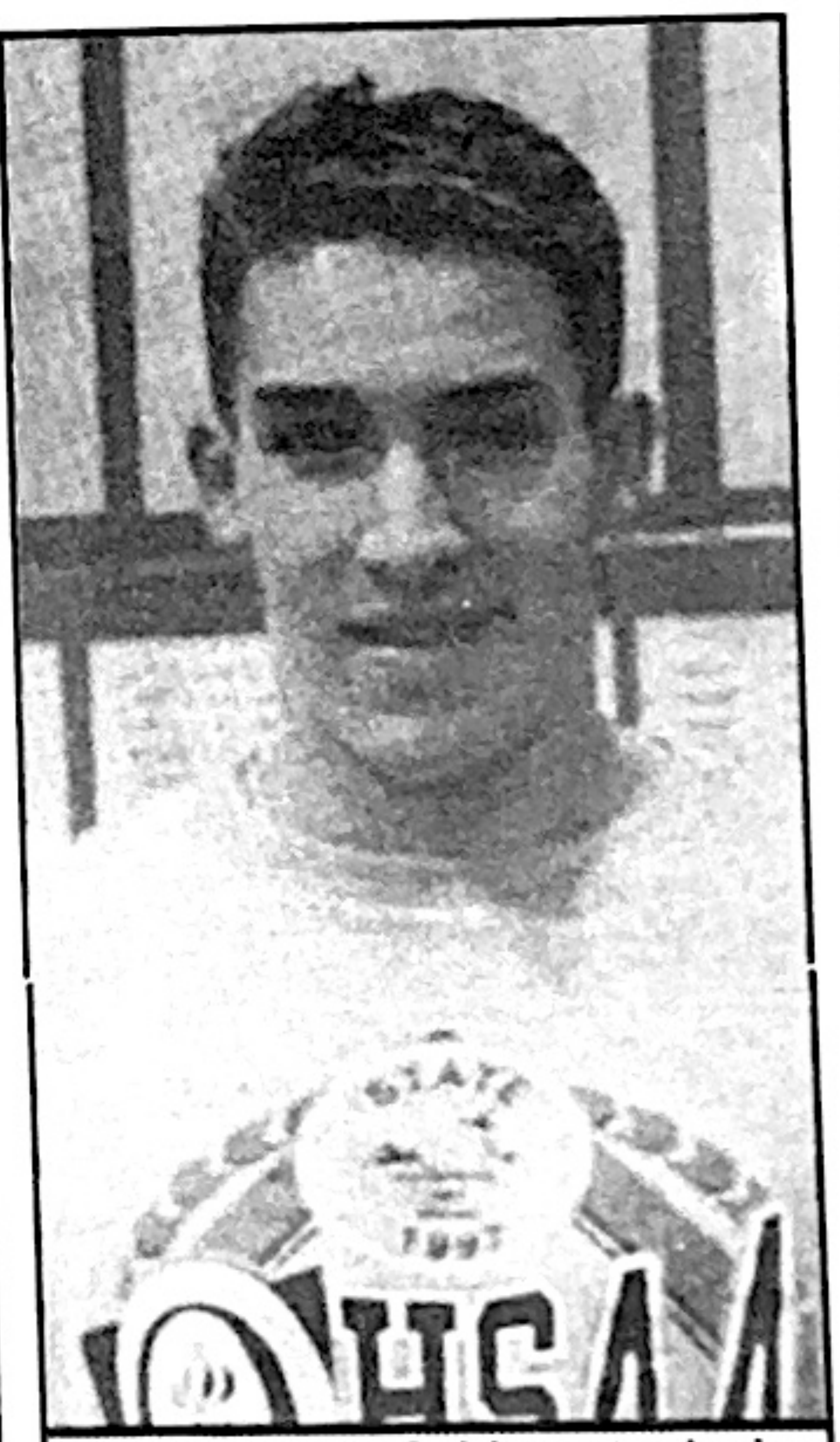
☛**Newman Adler Outfitters** sells ski sets at an average of $190 and up. They also rent from North Chagrin Reservation and Punderson State Park at an hourly rate of $4.50 or $12 for over two hours.

☛**Dunham's Sporting Goods** sells skis, poles and bindings from $60 a set and from $30 for the boots.

☛**Ski Haus** sells an average set for $200, but their price range is about $135 to $600. They rent for $12 the first day and $8 each additional day. A special Friday through Monday package is offered for $19.

☛**Koenigs Sporting Goods** sells most of its cross-country skis for $100 but more expensive models are available for $140.

RAIDERS OF THE MONTH



DAVID MOORE. Moore, a junior, has helped guide the mens swim team to an undefeated record this season. He looks to return to the state swim meet for the third consecutive year.

Shakerite photo by W. Michael Fleming

KRYSTEN DEAN. As a three-year member of the womens varsity basketball team, Dean is having another fine season under the team's new coach, John Marhefka.

Shakerite photo by W. Michael Fleming

Wrestling keeps winning record despite injuries

BY BRENDAN MASINI
Staff Reporter

Despite injuries to key wrestlers, the wrestling team as been able to maintain a consistent record both overall and in the Lake Erie League.

The team is 9-7 overall, and 6-5 in the LEL. Although the team has not had two of its best wrestlers, junior Mark Harris and senior Nate Newton, for several meets, the team was able to overcome its problems with solid performances. Both went out because of shoulder injuries in meets against Valley Forge opponents. Harris will be out for the season, but Newton is already back wrestling.

"Our team did not improve that much with him [Newton] back, but our line-up was obviously better," said senior captain Ben Cullis.

This is shown by their 4-5 record at the time of the injuries compared to their record now.

"We're doing well despite the injuries, and should finish above .500," said Cullis.

Several wrestlers have been doing an excellent job this season, according to coach Hank Kornblut. These include sophomore Kore Sharpley, senior Ben Cullis, sophomore Ben Greenspan, and sophomore Josh Greenspan, who have all placed in various tournaments.

Junior Solomon Boyd has been wrestling up two weight classes from where he should be, but is still having a good year, according to Kornblut.

Kornblut also said that senior Eric Selden was setting a great example with his work ethic.

In the victory over Normandy, only two of the active wrestlers were seniors, promising great things to come from this squad in the next few years, said Kornblut.

This talent has not gone unnoticed by the younger players themselves.

"There is lots of potential for the younger wrestlers to improve over the next few years," said freshman Bruce Wilson.

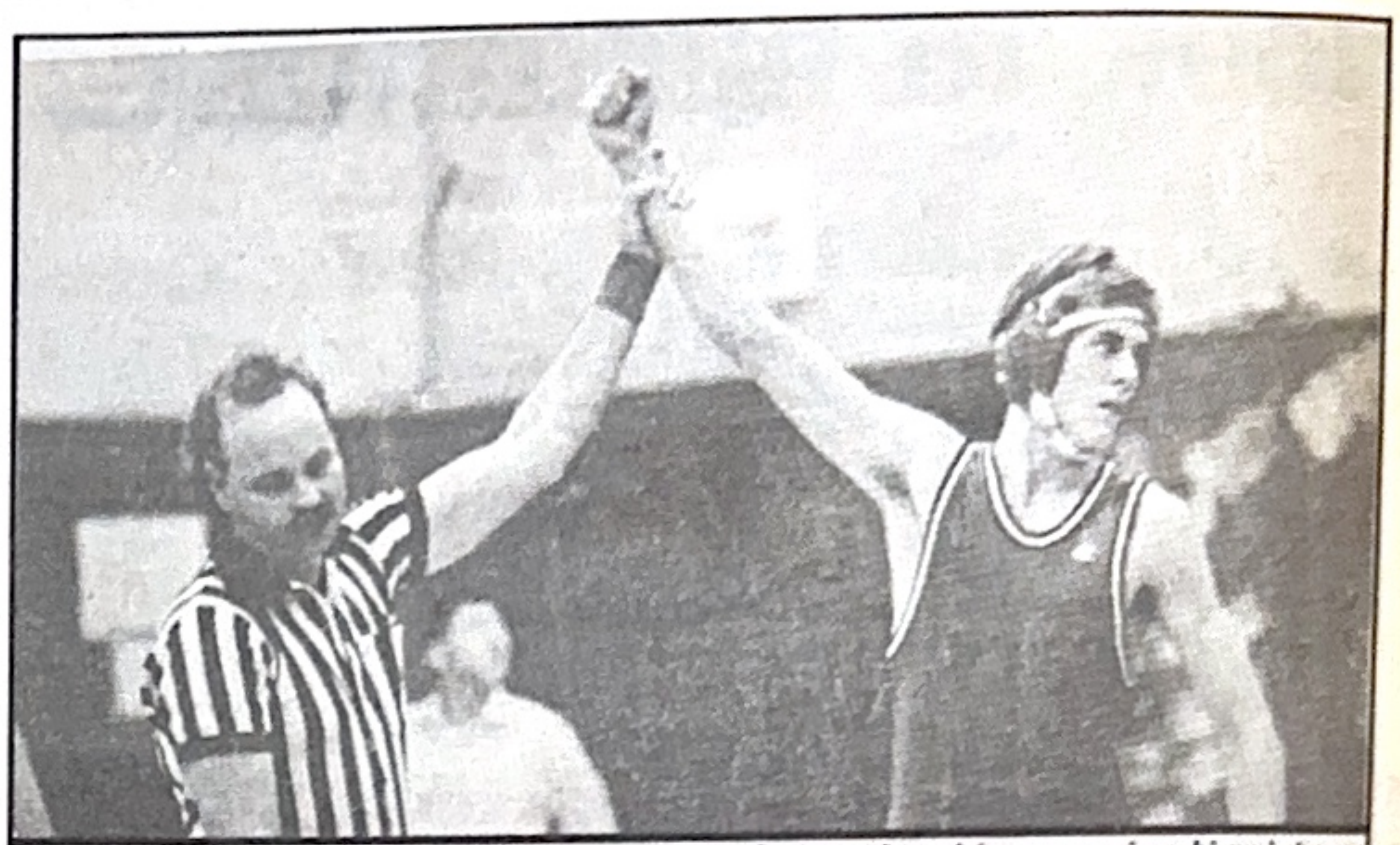
This feeling was echoed by all underclassmen questioned.

Newton noted that he has not seen much of an improvement of the team over his four years on it, although he does concede that this has been one of the better years.

Cullis also mentioned that he is happy with the performance of the team and hopes that they work hard in the off-season to improve.

"This has been a good season for this inexperienced team. We should contend for the league championship in the next few years," said Kornblut.

Next up for the team is a meet against Cleveland Heights, the junior varsity Tournament, and sectionals.



YOU'RE A WINNER! Senior wrestler Eric Seldon has his arm raised in victory after winning in the 130 pound weight class in a recent meet against Normandy.
Shakerite photo by W. Michael Fleming

RED RAIDER WRAP-UP

M. Swimming

RECORD: 10-0
LEL RECORD: 7-0 (1st place)

–state tournament is Feb. 25 and Feb. 26 in Columbus

W. Swimming

RECORD: 11-0
LEL RECORD: 7-0 (1st place)

–Jane Calfee appeared in *The Plain Dealer* as a Player of the Week.

Wrestling

OVERALL RECORD: 9-7
LEL RECORD: 6-5

–sectional tournament is on Feb. 25 and Feb. 26.

W. Basketball

RECORD: 9-10
LEL RECORD: 5-1 (first place)

–sectionals began on Feb. 14, and they continue until Feb. 26

M. Basketball

OVERALL RECORD: 7-9
LEL RECORD: 6-5

–tied for first place in the Erie Divsion of the Lake Erie League

JV RECORD:12-3
LEL RECORD: 10-1 (first place)

Hockey

OVERALL RECORD: 16-10

–lost to University School in the Baron Cup Tournament, 3-0.

–sophomore Ben Simon and seniors Jeff Ulrich and Dan Glasson were named All-Red Division players.

–state tournament begins on March 5 in Brooklyn, Ohio.

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